■ World / A12

Bush, Kerry in tight race, polls indicate

■ Business / B1

Gov't to push bill capping public debt

■ Super! / C2

Meet the cast of Wazzup Wazzup

■ Metro / A23

Ferry revival on Pasig mulled

■ Saturday Special / A2-1

Beatles' scions benefit from exceptional musical genes

Former Danding lawyer disbarred for immorality

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court has disbarred a former lawyer of tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. for secretly marrying the daughter of the influential businessman in July 1982 although he was already married and had children.

"Like the proverbial thief in the night, he

FORMER/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sturdy laptop takes brunt of GMA temper

By Juliet L. Javellana

ITO ANG LAPTOP PARA SA MGA MAINITIN ANG ULO!

SHE has been rumored to throw documents, her eyeglasses, even a sandwich when her legendary temper is provoked—usually by gross

STURDY/ A22

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Saturday, September 18, 2004 ★★ 78 pages / 8 sections / vol. 19 / no. 283 P18

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Usec was sacked–GMA

Ferrer ouster part of Cabinet revamp

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

CONTRARY to the announcement of Finance Undersecretary Inocencio Ferrer Jr., his leaving his post was part of the Cabinet revamp.

President Macapagal-Arroyo made this clear yesterday, a day after Ferrer told the Senate blue ribbon committee that he had tendered his irrevocable resignation in keeping with the dictates of *delicadeza*.

Ferrer quit as finance undersecretary and co-chair of the Special Presidential Task Force 156 amid accusations that he had tried to extort money from those alleged to have pulled off the P5.3-billion tax credit scam. The SPTF is under fire for bungling the prosecution of those involved in the scam, allegedly in return for certain favors.

But Ms Arroyo indicated over lunch with members of the Malacañang Press Corps that Ferrer had been fired, in the process contradicting her spokesperson's statement defending the undersecretary's resignation.

"Toting, it's not a coincidence. That's part of our revamp," she told Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, addressing him by his nickname.

Bunye said nothing.

The President made the remark after a reporter asked about the effect of the resignation of Ferrer and of National Treasurer Mina Figueroa on the tax and austerity programs that she had instituted to address the fiscal crisis.

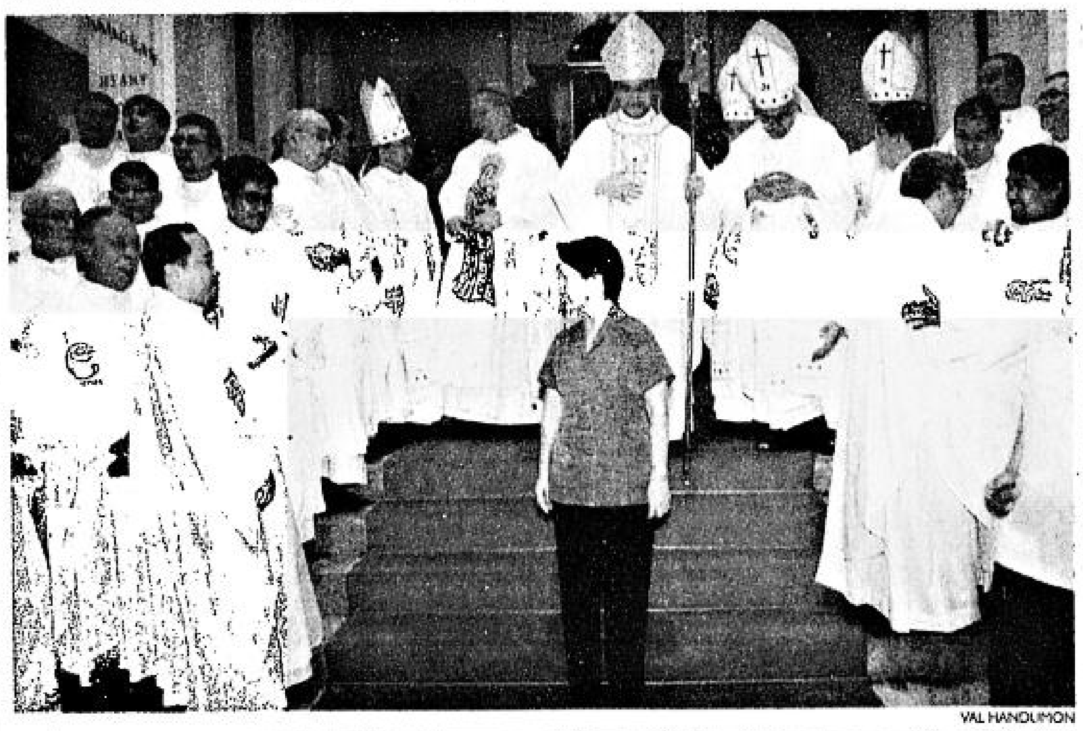
In the statement he issued earlier in the day, Bunye said Ferrer had deemed it "appropriate to quit in the midst of serious accusations against him, and perhaps this is best in order to pave the way for a speedy and credible investigation."

He also said Ferrer had quit out of *delicadeza*.

USEC/ A22

Feast of Peñafrancia

VAL HANDUMON



VAL HANDUMON

Falun Gong practitioners join the week-long celebration of the Feast of Nuestra Señora de Peñafrancia in Camarines Sur. The traditional self cultivation practice to improve mind and body is banned in China. President Macapagal-Arroyo also attended the fiesta and she is surrounded by the clergy after the Holy Mass at the Basilica Minore in Naga City Thursday night.

Annan's wrong: Iraq war is legal, says Bush

ST. CLOUD, Minnesota—United States President George W. Bush yesterday disputed United Nations chief Kofi Annan's charge that the war in Iraq was "illegal" under the world body's charter, saying that the UN approved the invasion.

The US president did not directly address Annan's comment to the BBC that failure to get a second UN Security Council explicitly authorizing military action meant that "from the (UN) charter point of view it was illegal."

But Bush pointedly referred to the council's unanimous endorsement, in November 2002, of resolution 1441, which warned Saddam Hussein he would face "serious consequences" if he were still seeking weapons of mass destruction.

"The United Nations looked at the same intelligence I looked at. They concluded Saddam Hussein was a threat. They voted by 15-0 in the UN Security Council for Saddam Hussein to disclose, disarm or face serious consequences," he said.

"I believe when bodies say something, they better mean it," said Bush, who heads to the UN General Assembly on Monday, two years after warning the world body would be just a "debating so-

ANNAN'S WRONG/ A10

Fil-Am general here for visit, does things the Asian way

By Alcuin Papa

THE 6-YEAR-OLD boy is now an American general and commander of a major unit in the US Armed Forces. But he can still do things the Asian way.

The highest ranking Filipino-American in the US military, Lt. Gen. Edward Soriano, flew into the country yesterday on a visit that is expected to shore up bilateral military relations and spur the modernization of the Philippine military, defense officials said.

Shortly after his arrival, the commanding general of the US Army I Corps paid courtesy calls on Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz and Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya in Camp Aguinaldo.

FIL-AM GENERAL/ A10

Execs who defy GMA order to cut pay face dismissal

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday stepped up her campaign against the "fat cats" in her administration, saying she would kick out her nominees in public corporations who disobey her 2001 directive stopping further increases in their salaries and bonuses.

The President said Memorandum Order No. 25 would serve as basis for Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin's ongoing review of all government-owned and -controlled corporations. The review includes setting the appropriate compensation package for GOCC board members and top executives.

Ms Arroyo told reporters at a lunch meeting in Malacañang that her proposed pay cut for GOCC directors and officers would not be a one-time sacrifice.

"I expect everybody in the government to cooperate in doing sacrifices for the greater good of the people. This must be the norm; [it must not be] considered an extraordinary sacrifice, in good times or in crisis," she said.

She pointed out that not only her appointees but also fixed-term officials were serving at her pleasure. "If they are told to cut their pay by this much and they don't, that's insubordination. They can be taken out," she added.

But even before the Department of Budget and Management can complete its review, the President declared that only very few public corporations were violating MO No. 25. She said many GOCC di-

EXECS/ A10

FAMILY MASSACRE IN SYDNEY

3 life terms for Sef Gonzales

SYDNEY, Australia—A Filipino-born law student was sentenced to three life sentences Friday for murdering his parents and sister in their Sydney home in 2001—a savage attack that shocked this city.

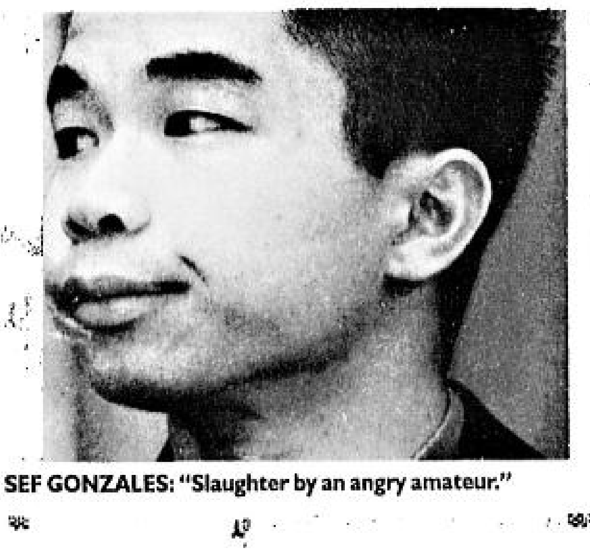
In May, a New South Wales state Supreme Court jury found Sef Gonzales guilty of fatally stabbing his parents, Teddy and Mary Loiva, and stabbing, strangling and bludgeoning to death his 18-year-old sister, Clodine, with a baseball bat.

Prosecutors alleged Gonzales killed his family on July 10, 2001 to get his hands on their A$1.5-million (US$1 million) estate and stop his parents restricting his lifestyle.

After killing his family, Gonzales wrote graffiti on the walls of his parents' home to suggest the slayings were racially motivated. He then went on television appealing for help tracking down his family's killer. He was later arrested.

Sentencing Gonzales to life behind bars with no prospect of parole, Justice Bruce James said the 24-year-old was not suffering from any mental condition at the time of the murders and had

3 LIFE/ A20



SEF GONZALES: "Slaughter by an angry amateur."

The killings Baguio would rather forget

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The murders rattled Baguio's small town conservatism when news about them broke three years ago.

But there was little stir in this mountain city of 250,000 people when judgment came down in a Sydney court on Friday.

Baguio would rather forget.

In 2001, the brutal killings of lawyer Teddy Gonzales, his wife Mary Loiva Claridades and

THE KILLINGS/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southwestern Luzon mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2004

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Gov't goes after Subic smugglers

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the Bureau of Internal Revenue to shut down and attach the bank accounts of tax-delinquent auctioneers of secondhand, imported vehicles in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

"I have instructed the BIR to use all powers in its command to run after these unscrupulous auctioneers, including the power to garnish bank accounts and close down establishments once assessment of the unfulfilled tax obligations is final," the President said in a statement.

The President issued the order after a final assessment by the BIR had found that the government had lost P944 million in foregone revenues from the top three car auctioneers at Subic.

"This is really a good start for the BIR and Commissioner [Guillermo] Parayno, and I assure him of my full support," Ms Arroyo said.

The BIR has already issued warrants of garnishment on the bank accounts of four Subic auctioneers under the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) to satisfy the government's claim to unpaid taxes, particularly the 10 percent value-added tax (VAT) on sales. A garnishment is a warning to a third party, in this case the banks, to hold, subject to a court's direction, money or property belonging to a debtor who is being sued by a creditor.

The President also ordered the justice department to assist the BIR in the ensuing legal battle after some of the Subic auctioneers questioned the BIR's move in court. The auctioneers claimed that part of Subic Freeport's tax incentives was the 5 percent gross income tax to cover all tax dues of locators in the free port.

This is the President's first major directive aimed at addressing the the long-standing complaint of domestic car manufacturers against the entry of used, converted and imported vehicles into Subic. Ms Arroyo had promised to put a stop to the practice that has significantly eaten into the sales of Japanese and US assemblers in the country.

The issue was again raised by representatives of the the US-Asean Business Council when they met with the President last Wednesday.

Testimony at a Senate hearing this week suggested that Subic may have become a center for car smuggling.

Customs Commissioner George Jereos said right-hand-drive vehicles were illegally entering the free port with approval from Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority officials.

Sen. Richard Gordon, a former SBMA chair, said as many as 9,000 cars had entered the country illegally through the SBMA "in the past so many years."

At a press conference in the Senate yesterday, Gordon blamed prominent local and national officials in the "rampant smuggling" of right-hand-drive vehicles into Subic.

Gordon said that although the Department of Trade and Industry had declared that such importation was illegal under Republic Act 8506, SBMA chair Felicito Payumo continued to allow it.

In a telephone interview yesterday, Payumo belied Gordon's claim that he was behind the car smuggling in the free port.

"I don't know what he's talking about. There are no violations of law covering the importation conversion and selling of second hand vehicles inside the free port zone," Payumo said.

He said that during Gordon's term as SBMA chair, uncollected duties and taxes amounted to P335 million.

"The issue of conversion of right-hand drive vehicles had been discussed during the 12th Congress. It was impossible that during Gordon's term there had been no importation of brand new vehicles at all," he said.

"How can there be smuggling when importers of secondhand vehicles are paying duties and taxes?" he added.

In his testimony earlier this week, Jereos said the "smuggling" of mostly right-hand-drive vehicles through SBMA was being facilitated by importation permits.

He agreed that SBMA officials were responsible for the proliferation of right-hand-drive cars in the free port.

Gordon said the importers in collusion with SBMA officials justify the importation by allowing the conversion of the cars into left-hand-drive before they are taken out of the free port. After conversion, the cars are not registered or taxed accordingly and are then auctioned off per shipment or by lot.

The average registration fee for a converted car is only about P2,000 each, regardless of whether it is luxury car or sports utility vehicle.

Gordon said that the importers also pay bribes to evade proper payment of taxes: P25,000 to the Land Transportation officials (in Olongapo and Subic), P25,000 for Bureau of Internal Revenue, and P50,000 to SBMA. *With a report from Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Delisting of CPP, NDF from terror list urged

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

PALO, Leyte—The head of Philippine peace panel has appealed to the United States and the European Union to remove the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front (CPP-NDF) from the list of international terrorist groups to pave the way for the resumption of peace talks between the government and communist rebels.

"I appeal to the US and EU governments to support the peace talks by way of addressing the issue on the delisting," Silvestre Bello III, chair of the government's peace panel, told the INQUIRER here yesterday, adding the rebel group should be judged on the basis of their participation in the government's peace program.

Making this appeal is meant to show that the national government is serious in its quest in ending the long-running insurgency problem of the country, Bello added.

Bello said blamed the inclusion of the CPP-NDF in the list of terrorist groups by the US and some EU member-nations for the aborted Aug. 24-30 meeting of the government and the CPP-NDF.

These "irritants," he assured, would all be addressed to end Asia's longest insurgency problem.

19 'dangerous' patients bolt Bicol mental hospital

CAMP SIMEON OLA, Legazpi City—Nineteen psychiatric patients, all former jail inmates, bolted from the government-run Cadlan Mental Hospital in Pili, Camarines Sur on Tuesday night, triggering fear among nearby residents.

Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda, Bicol Region police chief, said they considered the escapees "dangerous to the public" but he urged local residents to remain calm.

Initial reports said the escapees were former jail inmates sent to the hospital after being diagnosed as mentally ill.

Responding policemen from Pili recaptured five patients.

Mosqueda said the 19 men face criminal charges that include murder, attempted murder, homicide, robbery with arson and assault.

The patients escaped by sawing off iron grills at the back of the cell. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; With AP report*

Armed 'foreigners' seen in South

COTABATO CITY—Foreigners, wielding assault rifles, were seen in the company of Abu Sayyaf bandits roaming the towns of Sultan Kudarat province, the military reported Friday.

Col. Gerry Jalandoni, commander of the Army's 604th Infantry Brigade, said military agents could not ascertain the nationalities of the foreigners, but they were Middle Eastern-looking men lugging high-powered guns and luggage on their backs.

He said the foreigners were initially sighted on Monday.

"They could be Afghan, Pakistani or citizens from Arab-speaking countries," a military intelligence officer told the INQUIRER.

Jalandoni said residents of Barangay Bai Sarifinang in Bagumbayan town had reported the presence of about 40 Abu Sayyaf gunmen led by Isnilon Hapilon and the foreigners.

Villagers described the foreigners as tall, wearing heavy beards and could not speak the local dialect.

Hapilon, a Basilan-based Abu Sayyaf leader, had fled the island-province and his group was first sighted in Sultan Kudarat last week, Jalandoni said.

The military has launched a massive manhunt for Hapilon's group, who also took four Tiruray natives as hostages on Monday. The fate of the hostages remains unknown.

"A certain Commander Jojo of the MILF and the men under him were said to be aiding the Abu Sayyaf cross toward the coastal town of Palimbang," Jalandoni said.

Palimbang is where Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani had reportedly fled to avoid the military.

His group had merged with a local gang and some MILF rebels according to an earlier military report. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau and AP*

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Actual Cash Out P405,000	Actual Cash Out P387,000	Actual Cash Out P368,000
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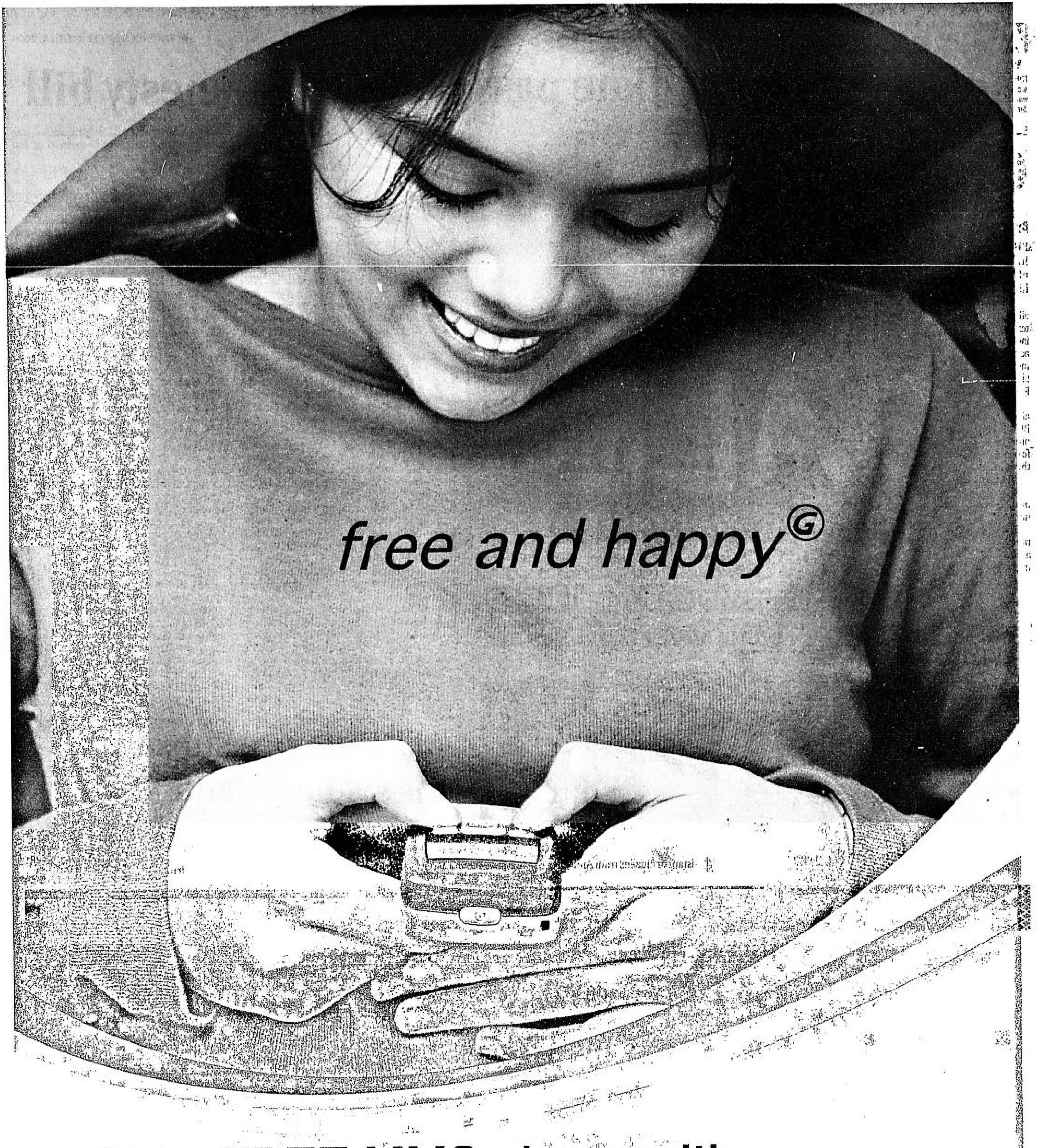

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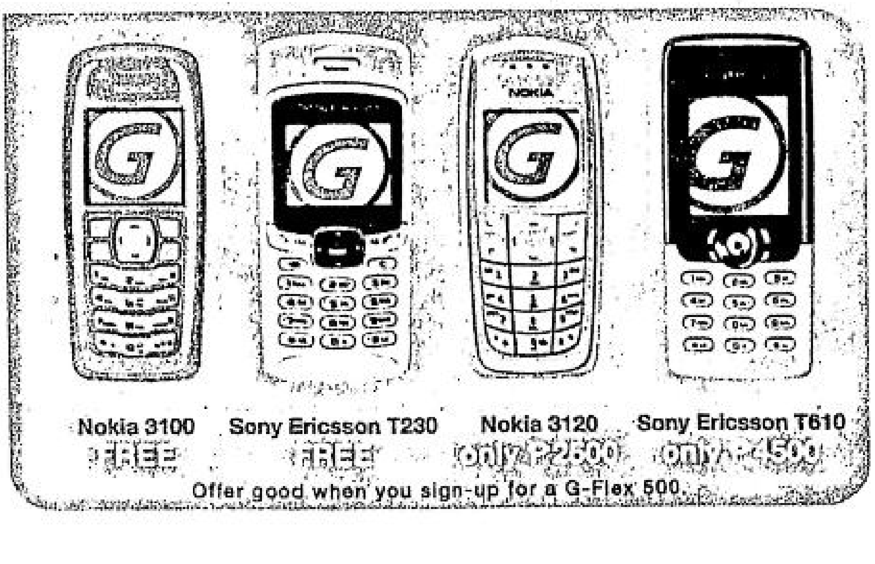

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G Flex 2,500	P 2,500	350	P 4.50	P 5.50
G Flex 3,500	P 3,500	400	P 4.00	P 4.50
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House eyes immediate passage of tax amnesty bill

By Carlito Pablo

THE HOUSE is rushing the approval of the proposed tax amnesty bill aimed at raising at least P9 billion in additional revenues for the cash-strapped government.

Floor deliberations on House Bill No. 2933 will start next week before Congress goes on a brief recess starting Sept. 23. The tax amnesty bill was earlier endorsed for approval by the House ways and means committee through committee report No. 26.

"The Presidential Legislative Liaison Office was given a copy of the committee report with a letter requesting to have the measure certified as urgent by President Macapagal-Arroyo," House Majority Leader Rep. Prospero Nograles (Lakas, Davao City) said.

Nograles also said the ways and means committee will conduct hearings on another pending tax measure, the indexation of the so-called sin taxes on tobacco and alcohol products, during the congressional break.

The sin tax measure is expected to generate P14 billion in fresh revenues.

On Tuesday, the ways and means committee chaired by Rep. Jesli Lapus (NPC, Tarlac) completed deliberations on the tax amnesty bill. Lapus will sponsor the measure on the floor next week.

Under the bill, all persons and parties wanting to avail of tax amnesty will be required to file a tax amnesty return accompanied by a statement of assets, liabilities and networth (SALN) as of Dec. 31, 2003.

The requirement for the filing of the SALN will cover "corporations, including tax-exempt organizations, but are otherwise taxable on their income from any properties or activities conducted for profit," said Lapus.

Lapus said these tax-exempt entities include church and religious organizations which recently asserted their tax exempt privileges.

Lapus said there are existing regulations which will guide the Bureau of Internal Revenue to determine which activities by these church and religious organizations are deemed commercial or profit-generating, and the corresponding taxes thereto.

"These activities will now be taxable," Lapus said.

The bill requires the following persons without pending or outstanding assessments for any national internal revenue taxes to file their SALNs:

*Individuals, whether employees, self-employed professionals.

*Trusts and estates.

*Tax-exempt organizations with taxable incomes.

*Taxpayers with subscribed capital of above P50 million.

*Taxpayers with subscribed capital of above P20 million up to P50 million.

*Taxpayers with subscribed capital of above P5 million up to P20 million.

*Taxpayers with subscribed capital of P5 million and below.

*Other juridical entities, including but not limited to cooperatives and foundations, that have taxable income as of Dec. 31, 2004.

The bill provides that taxpayers with assessments for taxes, whether protested or pending with the BIR, may avail of the tax amnesty equivalent to 10 percent of the assessed tax.

Upon full compliance with the conditions of the amnesty, a taxpayer shall be immune from related civil, criminal and administrative penalties.

The bill, however, provides that tax amnesty cannot be extended to the following:

*Withholding agents with respect to their withholding tax liabilities.

*Those with pending cases falling under the jurisdiction of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

*Those with pending cases involving unexplained or unlawfully acquired wealth or under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

*Those with pending investigations involving violations of the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

*Those with pending cases for tax evasion and other criminal offenses under the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1963 Series of 2004

AFP cuts rice subsidy for soldiers' families

RICE subsidies for military families have been cut off in line with the government's belt-tightening program, a military spokesman said yesterday.

The defense department has run up a bill of P533 million with the government's grains trading arm on the rice subsidies, which have been suspended, Lt.Col. Daniel Lucero said.

He said the subsidies were suspended earlier this year as the armed forces had used the funds instead to improve soldiers' salaries.

Subsidies will resume only after the military settles its accounts with the state-run National Food Authority, he added.

President Macapagal-Arroyo last month imposed austerity measures on government agencies to avert what she described as a looming fiscal crisis. *AFP*

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Christmas cheer hinges on tax bills, says GMA

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

WHETHER Filipinos will have a bleak or joyous Christmas this year will depend on whatever tax measures manage to squeeze through the congressional wringer, according to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

A lot of things depend on the passage of the revenue measures, chief of which was the "signal" it would give to the world and the business community that the Philippines has the will to address a deepening fiscal crisis, the President said at a luncheon with the Malacañang Press Corps yesterday.

According to Ms Arroyo, if the country gives out such a signal, it would result in a reduction of the interest on the debt that the Philippines has to pay, thereby freeing more funds in the national budget for direct services.

"What we can give for direct services is what would determine what kind of Christmas we will have," the President said.

Ms Arroyo said that despite the fiscal crisis, the Philippines has maintained the confidence of foreign investors, as evidenced by a 493 percent increase in investments this year and the fact that international financial institutions are still extending loans to the Philippines.

"So far we're still okay, people are still lending to us in the fund market. But, really, they're waiting for the signal of political will," she said.

She said increasing revenue collections was key, that's why was important for Congress to pass the eight new tax measures that she submitted, she said.

"We just have to show that everybody is willing to make sacrifices," she said.

The President has set the tone for austerity and sacrifice as she struggles to keep a lid on the ballooning budget deficit. She has asked the Malacañang kitchen to stop serving elaborate meals. Moreover, the simpler meals are to be served in plastic utensils.

But for the President's luncheon with Palace reporters yesterday, the meal that consisted of a slice of fish in tomato sauce, one cup rice and steamed vegetables was served on Palace china with silver utensils. A serving of fruit salad and tea capped the simple lunch.

Ms Arroyo admitted that a significant part of the government's annual budget has been going into domestic and foreign borrowings that have piled up over the years, depriving the people of funds for basic services.

The President said she was satisfied with the commitment of the House of Representatives to pass four of the eight tax measures before the year ends.

"I think that's good, that's half of it," she said.

But she said she was leaving it to Congress to decide which measures to approve first. The House has so far considered the proposed tax amnesty law.

While there are those who would question the wisdom of a tax amnesty law, the President said she believes it would contribute to increased revenues.

She said the target of an amnesty were the people who have not been paying the right amount of taxes in the past. She expected that these people would want to correct this and that would mean additional revenue.

"There is a debate [on the amnesty law] but the practicality is that there are those who are willing to contribute for what they did not pay in the past," Ms Arroyo said.

The President said she was not going to defend each of the eight tax measures recommended by her economic managers to Congress. She said the recommendations closely approximated those made by the 11 UP School of Economics professors who sounded the alarm on the threatened fiscal crisis in a paper that they publicized recently.

"I submitted them [the proposed tax measures] to Congress. I told Congress, however, that my economic managers do not have a monopoly of wisdom. I'm just telling them we have to raise P80 billion, if they have better ideas," she said.

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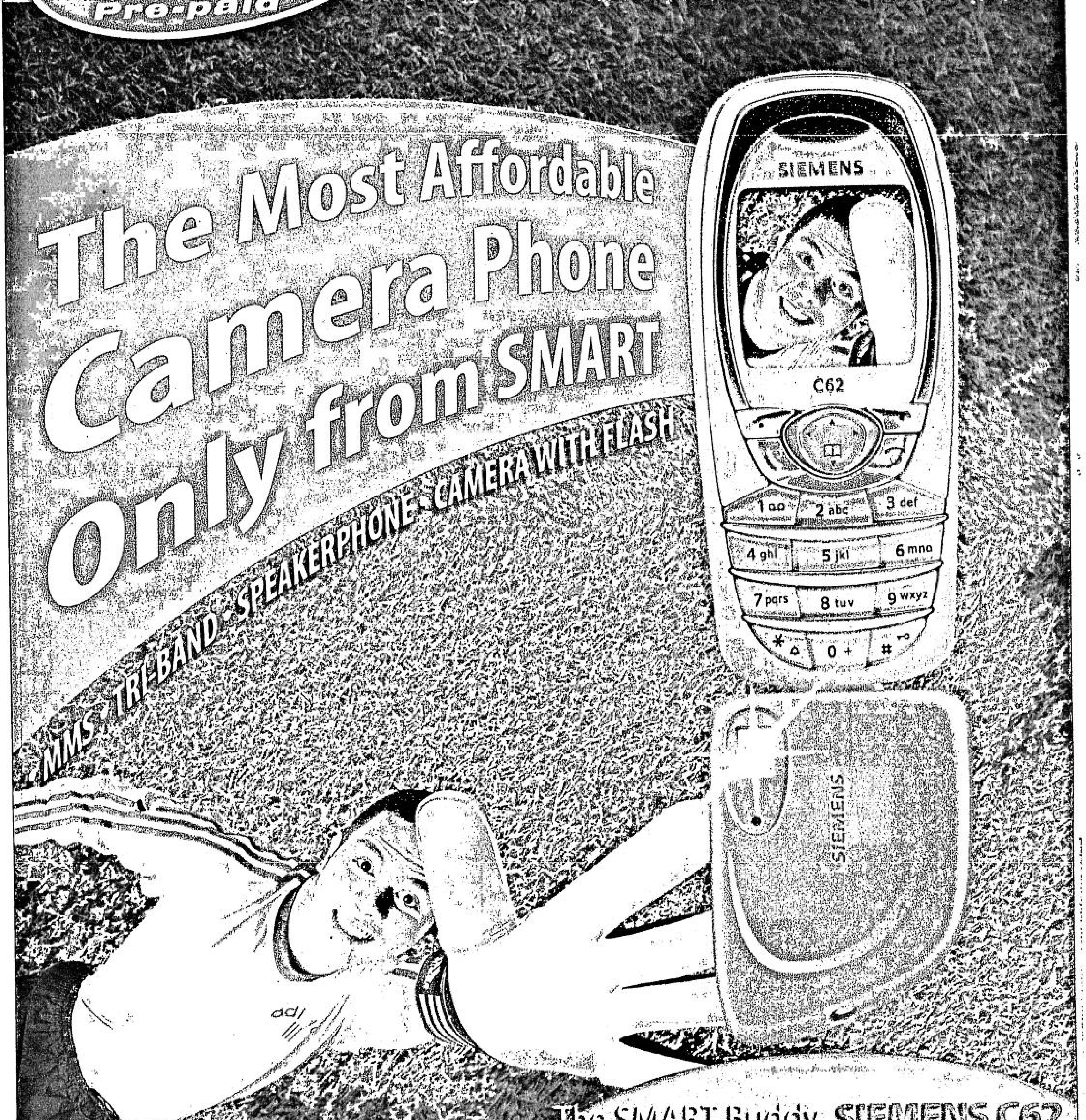

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Take extra year in HS, DECS urges flunkers

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

PUBLIC high schools have been told to accommodate more of their freshmen students in the "bridge program" following the dismal results of the second High School Readiness Test.

Education Secretary Florencio Abad has ordered public high school officials to convince parents of students who flunked the second HSRT administered on Aug. 31 to take the extra school year.

"On the basis of the decision of parents, school administrators should organize new or additional sections for the bridge program in their respective schools," Abad said in a memo dated Sept. 8.

The new bridge sections should be in place by the start of the second grading period, which began Sept. 10.

The bridge program is a year-long intensive tutorial on English, Science and Math for incoming high school freshmen who are deemed to be slow learners.

The HSRT, which was first administered on May 24, was supposed to determine which of the 1.2 million incoming freshmen in public high schools would take the bridge program.

But because parents protested against an added year of high school, the DepEd relented and made the bridge program optional this school year.

The DepEd claims that at least 200,000 freshmen students voluntarily entered the program based on preliminary data.

Preliminary results showed that about 80 percent of the nearly one million high school freshmen who took the second HSRT flunked the 90-item test. The cut-off score was 50 percent.

These results are slightly better than the first HSRT, wherein 93 percent of the students flunked the test. Cut-off score was also 50 percent.

Abad, who assumed office only last Sept. 1, ordered teachers to discuss the test results with the parents "so they can decide whether or not to transfer their children to the bridge program."

High court upholds gun ban

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court has affirmed its decision to uphold the nationwide gun ban that President Macapagal-Arroyo declared in 2003.

In a one-page resolution dated Sept. 7, the high court denied "with finality" the motion for reconsideration filed by former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, who had questioned the gun ban's legality.

"The court resolved to deny with finality the said motion for reconsideration, as the basic issues raised therein have been passed upon by this court and no substantial arguments were presented to warrant the reversal of the questioned decision," the tribunal said.

Justices Alicia Austria-Martinez and Conchita Carpio-Morales did not participate in the deliberation on the case since they were on official leave.

June 9 ruling

On June 9, the high court unanimously upheld the gun ban, saying that bearing arms is not a constitutionally-protected right.

Chavez filed a motion for reconsideration, saying that the gun ban should be voided since the Philippine National Police has not returned a total of P128 million worth of fees that gun owners like him paid to get Permits to Carry Firearms Outside of Residence (PTCFOR).

"Upon the revocation of their PTCFORs, petitioner and other gun owners did not get anything in return for the fees they paid to the government. They shelled out money for the required fees. The government, by canceling the PTCFORs, gobbled up the gun owners' money," Chavez said.

Scandalous scam

There are an estimated 32,000 holders of PTCFORs who paid a minimum of P4,000 each before the gun ban.

"The result is a scandalous scam involving about P128 million!" he said. "Does this honorable court's decision justify this obvious robbery?"

The President declared the gun ban in January 2003 and ordered then-PNP Chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. to cancel existing PTCFORs and suspend the issuance of these permits. Ebdane then issued a set of guidelines to implement the gun ban.

Citizen's right

Chavez insisted that citizens have the basic right to defend themselves, noting that a gun ban does not deter criminals from committing crimes.

"Even if the Philippine constitution does not expressly grant the right to bear arms, citizens have the inherent right to protect their lives, which cannot be taken away by any law," he said.

'No significant effect'

He cited a study made by lawyer Roy M. Manuel Villasor of the National Defense College, which showed that a gun ban has "no significant effect" on the country's total crime volume (TCV).

Villasor noted that despite a six-month gun ban during the 1998 elections, TCV increased by .69 percent.

There were gun bans during the election years 1992 and 1995, yet firearm-related crimes during those years increased by 127.37 percent and 218.2 percent, respectively.

'No truth'

From 1993 to 1997, the number of PTCFORs increased from 20,957 to 66,449 but TCV decreased by 26.5 percent. In 1998, the number of PTCFORs went down to 63,403, but TCV increased by .69 percent, Villasor said.

The study showed that there was "no truth" to the belief that "more guns result in more crimes." A gun ban will not stop a criminal from committing a crime because criminals will simply choose another weapon, Chavez said.

He added that the PNP should not be allowed to simply revoke gun licenses.

Once a person is granted a license, "and such a person complies with all the conditions therein," the license "cannot be revoked unless the grantee violates the conditions set forth therein," he said.

"To rule otherwise would cause havoc on society. If a license duly issued may be revoked at the whim and caprice of the issuing authority, then the exercise of the people's rights and privileges would be at the mercy of the those in power," Chavez said.

South Korean carrier granted additional flights to Clark

THE PHILIPPINES will grant additional flights to South Korea's Asiana Airlines to Clark airport, a former US airbase in Pampanga, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said yesterday.

The additional flights will be granted during bilateral talks on air service agreements between the Philippines and South Korea later this year, Mendoza said.

"We will give Asiana additional rights to fly to Clark. We plan to give the Korean government additional frequency entitlements," Mendoza said, adding that the Philippines expects more flight entitlements to South Korea in return.

Mendoza did not say how many more flights would be granted to Asiana.

Asiana makes five chartered flights a week to Clark airport on top of seven commercial and two cargo flights to the capital.

The South Korean carrier has been planning to increase flights to the Philippines to maintain its share of the growing Korean tourist market here.

Airport authorities have said they will develop Clark into a major international gateway at the cost of at least P2 billion.

The sprawling Clark Airbase, once one of the largest overseas US airbases, was abandoned by US forces in 1991 after the eruption of nearby Pinatubo volcano damaged its facilities. *AFP*

Lorenzo defends using gov't funds for private plane

PRESIDENTIAL aide Luis Lorenzo yesterday defended using government funds to fuel a private jet amid an official crackdown on conspicuous consumption meant to head off a looming fiscal crisis.

Lorenzo confirmed a report by Newsbreak magazine that he used government money to pay for jet fuel worth P2.5 million on official hops across the archipelago in his previous post as agriculture secretary.

The norm for officials on government trips is to fly business class on commercial airlines.

Lorenzo, who was reassigned to become a presidential adviser on flagship infrastructure projects earlier this year, said he needed efficient transport to cover a lot of ground to fulfill Arroyo's aim to revive agriculture, the sector that employs the most number of Filipinos.

"Actually I was only charged for the price of gasoline. The cost of (leasing) the plane was not even included," he said over dzBB radio.

"I had to cover a big area because I was a hands-on manager who followed up to ensure that projects are completed," he said.

Arroyo last month imposed austerity measures on government agencies to avert what she described as a looming fiscal crisis.

Non-essential foreign travel for officials was banned and government offices were ordered to trim their use of fuel and electricity by 10 percent. Arroyo also cut the number of vehicles in her security convoy. *AFP*

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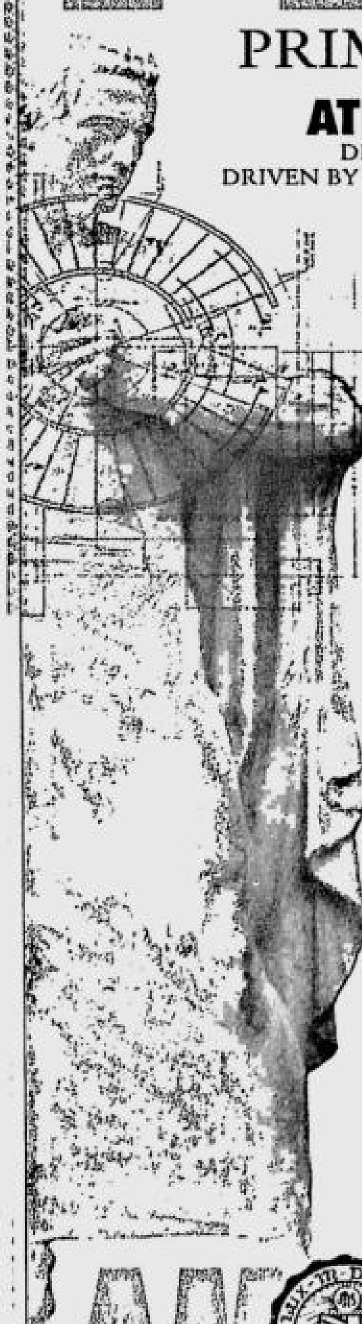

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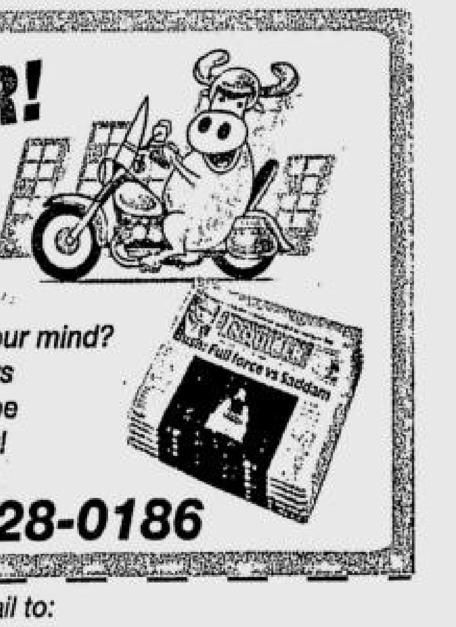

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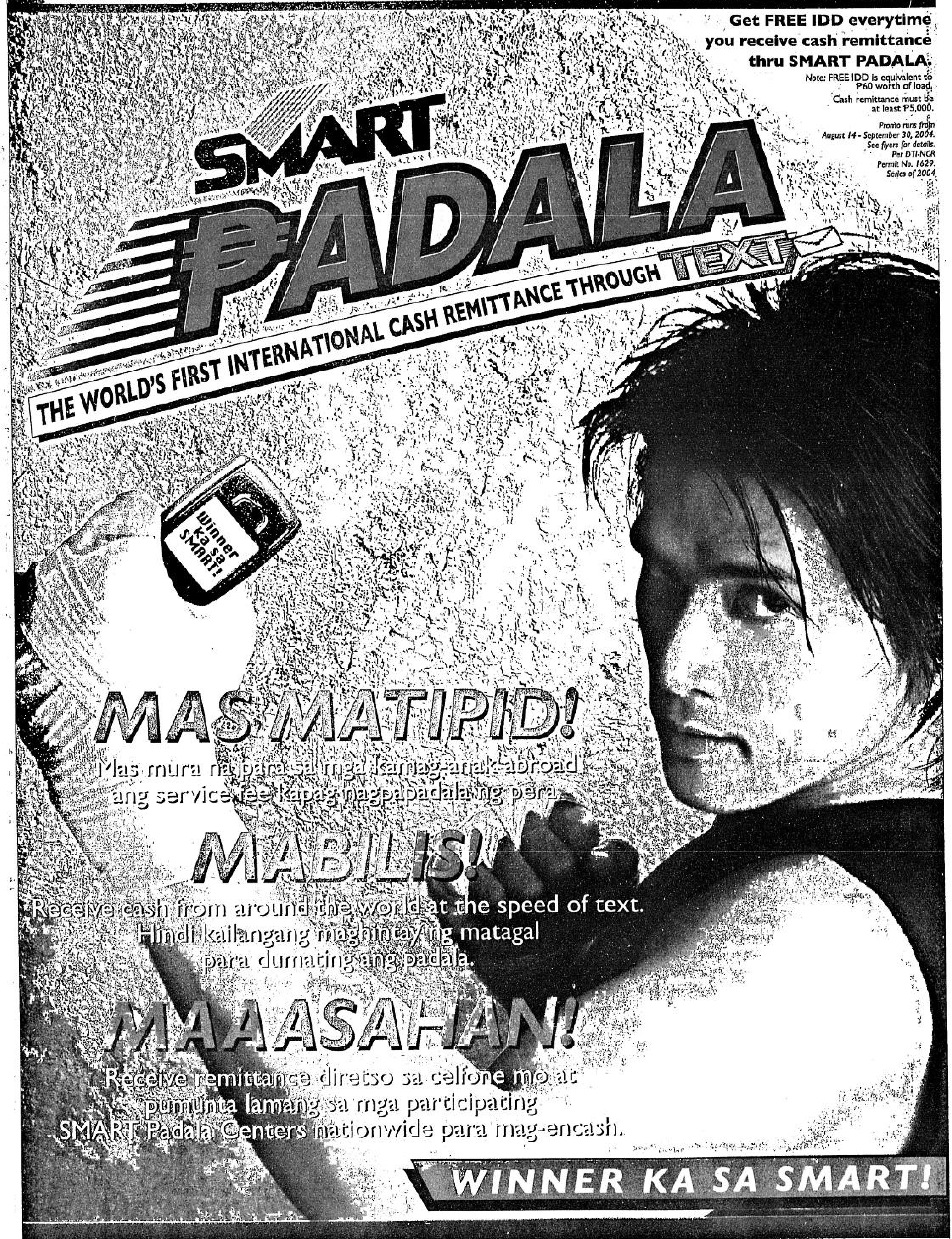
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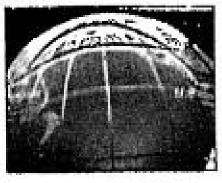

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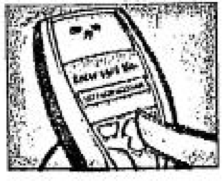

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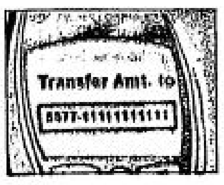

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BIR 'resibo' text promo finalist in S'pore IT tilt

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue's "Bayan, I-Txt ang Resibo" promo is among the finalists of the 2004 MIS Asia. Innovation Awards which will be held next week in Singapore. More than 100 nominations were received by the awards committee.

Deputy Commissioner Lilia C. Guillermo of the bureau's Information Systems Group was informed by the organizers that the BIR's SMS-based promo had been shortlisted by the awards committee.

The prestigious Innovation Awards, initiated annually by MIS Asia, pays tribute to distinctive projects and programs in enterprise deployment and the use of information technology in Asia. Among its past awardees are CNBC Asia, Supreme Court of Singapore, Bajaj Auto India and Hong Kong Jockey Club.

Guillermo said that "Bayan, I-Txt ang Resibo" was featured as a finalist under the category wireless application.

The BIR also announced yesterday the revival of the Resibo project to celebrate the bureau's centennial year dubbed as "Bayan, I-Txt ang Resibo 2004." Texters may submit entry receipts with a minimum of P100 purchase. Valid entries are receipts issued from Sept. 8 to Dec. 15, 2004.

Thirty-eight winners, who will receive P25,000 each, will be drawn from the 19 revenue regions on Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29; Nov. 5, 12, 18 and 26, and Dec. 3 and 10. Monthly winners for the draws on Oct. 29 and Nov. 26 will receive P1 million each. For the Christmas draw on Dec. 17, three texters will win P1 million each while the issuer of receipts in this draw will receive P50,000 each.

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

Who will be next Tony Tan Caktiong?

CAN THE Philippines produce another Tony Tan Caktiong?

Caktiong, president and chief executive officer of Jollibee Foods Corporation and the first Entrepreneur Of The Year Philippines winner, believes another Filipino can.

The founder of the phenomenally successful Jollibee food chain brought immense honor to the country last May when he bagged the World Entrepreneur Of The Year title in rites held in Monaco.

Caktiong said there are many Filipinos who possess the qualities of excellent entrepreneurs which he described as the capacity to think beyond themselves, to persevere even amid trials and continue to dream of a brighter future.

On the night in Monaco when his name was called, Caktiong said what immediately came to his mind were "the faces of people who have helped build Jollibee.

"I was there to represent the multitudes of people who made our country proud."

But, he said, "it's time for another entrepreneur to inspire others."

Who will be the next Caktiong?

The answer lies in the ongoing search by the SGV Foundation and its partner agencies for the Entrepreneur Of The Year Philippines 2004.

The awards, considered the Oscars of international business, was launched in the United States by Ernst & Young in 1986 to honor entrepreneurs who had created and sustained successful, growing business ventures. Some 40 countries are now participating in the program which is just on its second year in the Philippines.

SGV Foundation runs the program here with partner agencies that include the Department of Trade and Industry, Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP), Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), and the University of the Philippines College of Business Administration (UPCBA). The Citigroup Private Bank, San Miguel Corporation, CNN and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines have also joined this year's search as sponsors.

SGV Foundation chair David L. Balangue said the program jibes with "the government's focus on fostering entrepreneurship and grooming local entrepreneurs to take on the world market.

"Through the program, we can show that the Philippines has the talent and capability to compete globally. More importantly, success stories like Tony Tan Caktiong and Jollibee, which started from a mere ice cream parlor, will inspire other Filipino entrepreneurs to work harder and be resilient even in the face of challenges and seeming defeat," Balangue said.

This year, the Entrepreneur Of The Year Philippines Program will confer the Master Entrepreneur, Socially Responsible Entrepreneur, Small Business Entrepreneur, Woman Entrepreneur and Industry-Specific Entrepreneur awards. This year's Industry-Specific Entrepreneur Award is for Agribusiness.

From these category winners will be selected the Entrepreneur Of The Year Philippines 2004 who will represent the country in the World Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards in Monte Carlo, Monaco, in May 2005.

To qualify, the nominee should be a business owner or founder who is primarily responsible for the growth of his or her company and still active in top management. The business must have been operating for at least two years.

An independent panel of judges composed of leaders from government, business and the academe will evaluate nominees in terms of innovation, financial performance and personal commitment to their business and community.

Nominations end on Oct. 15. Self-nominations are encouraged, as are those from suppliers, customers and others dealing closely with the entrepreneur. For details, contact lawyer Rodolfo O. Reyes, Entrepreneur Of The Year Program Coordinator, at 894-8376 or e-mail eoy.info@ph.ey.com.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, September 18, 2004
24th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49
Gospel: Lk 8:4-15

As a great crowd gathered and people came to him from every town, Jesus began teaching them through stories, or parables, "The sower went out to sow the seed. And as he sowed, some of the grain fell along the way, was trodden on and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, and no sooner had it come up than it withered, because it had no water. Some fell among thorns; the thorns grew up with the seed and choked it. But some fell on good soil and grew, producing fruit—a hundred times as much." And Jesus cried out, "Listen then, if you have ears to hear!"

The disciples asked him, "What does this story mean?" And Jesus answered, "You have been granted to know the mystery of the kingdom of God. But to others it is given in the form of stories, or parables, so that seeing they may not perceive and hearing they may not understand."

Now, this is the point of the parable:

The seed is the word of God. Those along the wayside are people who hear it, but immediately the devil comes and takes the word from their minds, for he doesn't want them to believe and be saved. Those on the rocky ground are people who receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe for a while and give way in time of trial. Among the thorns are people who hear the word but as they go their way, are choked by worries, riches, and the pleasures of life; they bring no fruit to maturity. The good soil, instead, are people who receive the word and keep it in a gentle and generous mind, and persevering patiently, they bear fruit.

Commentary

The soil is the heart, the place where the seed of God's word is to be received and hidden, and from where it will appear in its own time in a revolution of freshness and new life. But the difficulty is that the soil is never perfect.

1. "Some seed fell along the path..." The path is where everyone walks: it's public. It's not a place of interest in itself; it leads elsewhere. When you are on a path you are between places, you are nowhere. The path has no interiority. If I'm always on the way to somewhere else (and which of us isn't nowadays?) I'm nowhere, and the word of God cannot find a place in me.

2. "Some seed fell on rocky ground..." The heart can be like a rock or a stone: solid, impenetrable, self-enclosed, separate, unloving and unloved... Throughout the ages it has been a common metaphor for the heart. "I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh" (Ezk11:19).

3. "Some seed fell among thorns..." It has a chance to grow there, but everything else is growing there too. My power is divided into a thousand parts, and only one is available for the word of God. It's like flicking through the pages of a magazine: nothing remains in the heart, even though everything was promised.

4. "Some seed fell on good soil..." It's good soil when none of the above applies. Then the heart is deep and soft and silent. Then I may hear the word of God.

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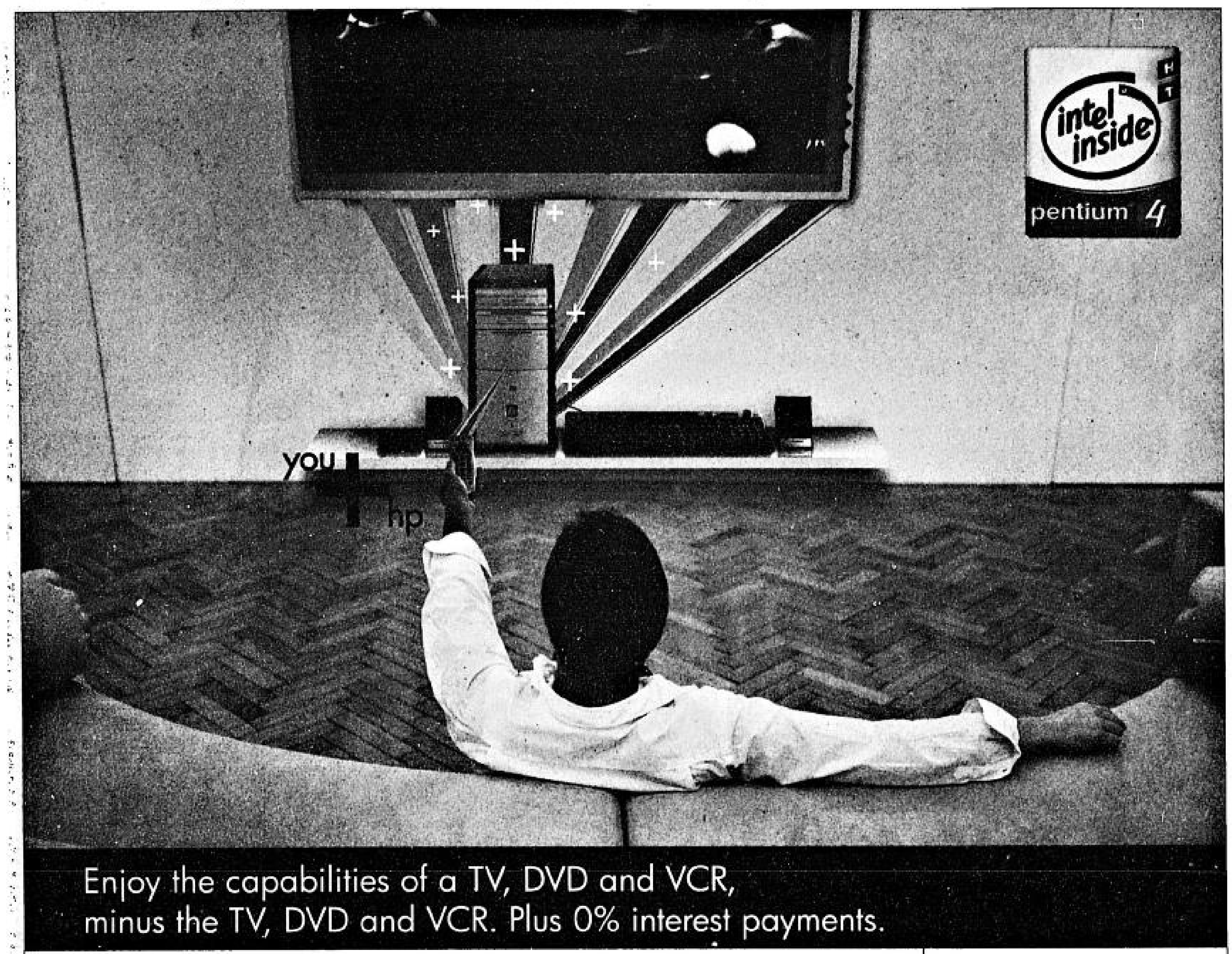
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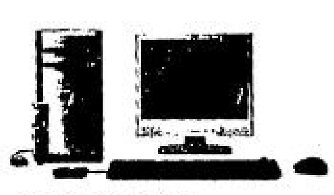
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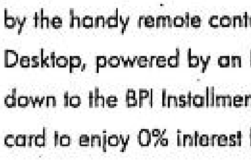
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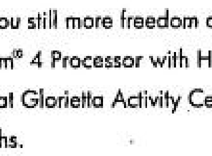
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Vinarao back as prisons head

VINARAO

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed retired police general Vicente Vinarao as new head of the Bureau of Corrections.

Vinarao replaces Bucor chief Dionisio Santiago.

"He did a good job when he was the one (in charge of that)," Ms Arroyo told Palace reporters during lunch at the State Dining Room.

Vinarao served as Bucor chief during the Ramos administration where he also served as superintendent of the Philippine National Police Academy and presidential adviser for police affairs.

Santiago, former Armed Forces chief of staff, resigned last week. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

PNP TOP BRASS

GMA kin, 3 others promoted

By Christian V. Esguerra

A RELATIVE of President Macapagal-Arroyo has been promoted along with three other police generals at the Philippine National Police.

Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon, the PNP's comptroller who is said to be a cousin of the President, was given his second star and promoted to Director as were two other chief superintendents, Arturo Lomibao and Vidal Querol.

Director Ricardo de Leon, the new head of the PNP anti-illegal drugs campaign, was promoted to deputy director general (with three stars).

PNP chief Edgar Aglipay had promised the promotions to De Leon and the three generals who were officially given their new stars at the 116th National Law Enforcement Coordinating Council meeting in Cebu City yesterday.

Calderon, who like the President hails from Pampanga, had been considered a "dark horse" in the race to succeed Director General Hermogenes Ebdane as PNP chief, which was won by Aglipay.

Within hours of assuming the top PNP post on Aug. 23, Aglipay announced that he was already working on the promotion of De Leon, Calderon, Lomibao and Querol.

Camp Crame insiders believe De Leon's promotion may have been a way of appeasing him. De Leon held the coveted National Capital Region Police Office post when he was moved out of the PNP and designated chief of the Philippine Center for Transnational Crime.

Though the PCTC is a powerful government agency, it has lately been seen as dumping ground for police generals who do not find favor with Malacañang or with whoever is the PNP chief.

Apparently to further appease him, De Leon was appointed to concurrently head the PNP's Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force, a post previously held by Aglipay.

Lomibao's promotion is seen as a sop to his bruised ego after his appointment as director of the Calabarzon region, another much sought-after PNP position, was scuttled.

Lomibao was supposed to have been moved out of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to Calabarzon, but the incumbent Chief Supt. Reynaldo Varilla allegedly lobbied to be retained in the post.

As a result, Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa, who was to replace Lomibao as CIDG director, will have to wait indefinitely.

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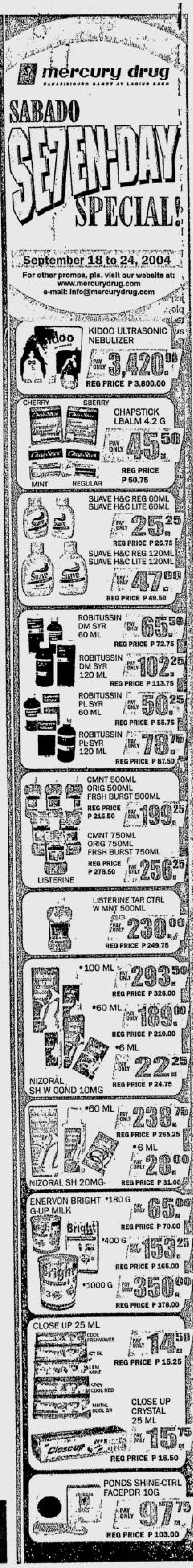

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Fil-Am general here for visit, does things the Asian way

US ARMY Lt. Gen. Edward Soriano and Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya execute snappy salutes during the Fil-American general's visit at Camp Aguinaldo. JOAN BONDOC

From page A1

Soriano did not give any statement to reporters and details of his meetings were not released to media.

"It was very informal and I think that is the Asian way of building close ties," Cruz told reporters.

The only other Filipino-American general in the US military is Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, who recently created international headlines with his report about abuses allegedly committed by US servicemen against Islamic detainees in the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

This is Soriano's first visit to his former homeland since his family, from Pangasinan, immigrated to the United States nearly 50 years ago. The general was a 6-year-old boy then.

Soriano's credentials

Aside from leading the I Corps, Soriano is also commander of the Ft. Lewis, Washington, headquarters of the US Army Special Forces unit. He is also Director of Homeland Security, US Joint Forces Command. The Department of Homeland Security was formed by President George W. Bush to coordinate security measures after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.

The US Army's I Corps plays a key role in American defense. US officials have proposed to transfer its headquarters from Fort Lewis to Kanagawa Prefecture in Japan as part of an overall Asian realignment being carried out by the US Department of Defense, the Japanese newspaper Asahi Shimbun reported in March.

Asahi said the realignment was designed, at least in part, to speed up the response time to conflicts that might arise on the Korean Peninsula.

If carried out, I Corps could supervise US Army forces now serving in South Korea, Asahi said. It said that the Japanese government, thus far, had not warmed to the idea.

Cruz told reporters that Soriano's visit was a "positive sign" for RP-US military relations and that the general expressed interest in the AFP Modernization Program and the Philippine Defense Reform Program, two projects intended to upgrade the country's fighting force.

In Soriano's footsteps?

"It's a positive sign that he is here," Cruz said. "He expressed his opinions and suggestions based on his own experiences. After all, at one point in their history, the US military also went through a period where they underwent upgrading of their forces."

US-Phililppine relations were recently strained after Manila pulled out its troops from Iraq to save truck driver Angelo de la Cruz from beheading by Iraqi militants.

Cruz also said that Soriano's visit highlighted the possibility of other Filipinos rising in the ranks of the US military.

During his visit, Soriano will give a talk to cadets of the Philippine Military Academy.

"General Soriano's accomplishment gives us pride and it gives impetus to our young men and cadets that they too could rise in the ranks," Cruz said.

Visit to his hometown

Soriano's visit is upon a long-standing invitation extended by Abaya. Aside from visiting the PMA in Baguio, Soriano is also to visit his relatives in Alcala, Pangasinan.

Cruz did not say if Soriano discussed counterterrorism and the country's efforts to fight global terrorism during his talks with Philippine officials.

Besides meetings with defense and military officials and his visit to the PMA, Soriano will also meet with officials of the US Embassy and US military personnel temporarily assigned in the Philippines.

A checkered career

According to a statement by the US Embassy, units under Soriano's command have participated in joint RP-US military exercises. "Additionally, in support of security assistance training for the AFP, Special Forces personnel from Ft. Lewis are currently conducting light infantry training to enhance the AFP's counterterrorism efforts," the embassy said.

Soriano was commissioned as a second lieutenant of infantry upon graduating from San Jose State University in 1970 with a management degree. He graduated from the Army War College in 1989.

He has held a number of command positions with airborne, light and mechanized units in the US Army based on the mainland and around the world.

He was Assistant Division Commander of the 1st Infantry Division and Seventh Army in Germany as part of Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia-Herzegovina and commander of the 7th Infantry Division and Fort Carson in Colorado.

Medals won

Among his awards were a Distinguished Service Medal, two Defense Superior Service Medals, three Meritorious Service Medals, the Bronze Star, four citations of the Legion of Merit and Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

He is married to the former Vivian Guillermo and they have two children.

Annan's wrong: Iraq war is legal, says Bush

From page A1

ciety" if it failed to back the war.

Bush suffered an embarrassing blow when the vast caches of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction at the core of his public case for war did not materialize. And the bloody chaos in Iraq and rising death toll among US forces there pose a threat to his hopes to win a second term in the Nov. 2 election.

In an interview on Wednesday with BBC World Service, the UN chief said there should have been a "second resolution" from the Security Council to greenlight the invasion which toppled Saddam Hussein's regime.

"I've indicated that it was not in conformity with the UN charter from our point of view, and from the charter point of view it was illegal," he said.

After vowing to bring a second resolution before the security council, Bush gave up on the effort when it became clear that opposition from France, Russia and other members would doom the measure.

Resolution 1441

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan and US State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher both denied that Washington needed a second resolution after UN Security Council Resolution 1441 and other UN resolutions that preceded it.

Resolution 1441 "gave coalition forces the authority they needed to remove Saddam Hussein and his regime from power," McClellan said as Bush campaigned in this historically Democratic stronghold.

"There were, as we've pointed out before, 17 resolutions, including Resolution 1441, that detailed Iraq's obligations, its refusal to disarm and the consequences for non-compliance," said Boucher.

"So we think that was a very solid basis, legal basis, for the war. And that's the basis on which we proceeded," Boucher told reporters in Washington.

But the US ambassador to the United Nations at the time, John Negroponte, had said Washington reserved the right to act if the world body did not, but also said that 1441 was not UN authorization for US military action.

"This resolution contains no hidden triggers and no automaticity with respect to the use of force," Negroponte, now US ambassador to Iraq, had declared after 1441 passed.

McClellan denied that Annan's comments would cast a shadow on Bush's upcoming visit at a time when Washington has been ardently courting UN support in Iraq.

"The United Nations shares our commitment to help the Iraqi people build a free and peaceful future, and especially to hold free elections" scheduled for January, said the spokesperson.

At a campaign rally here, Bush accused Democratic White House hopeful John Kerry of sending dangerously "mixed signals" to friend and foe alike with his explanations for his stance on the war.

"Mixed signals are the wrong signals to send to our troops in the field, the Iraqi people, to our allies and most of all to our enemies," said Bush, who has accused his rival of being fickle on national security.

Bush said Kerry, in a radio interview on Wednesday, had said that "there were no circumstances, none, under which we should have gone to war" even though he voted in October 2002 to authorize the use of force in Iraq.

According to a transcript of the interview, Kerry was asked whether there were any circumstances today that justified the war in Iraq and replied: "Under the current circumstances, no, there are none that I see."

"I voted based on weapons of mass destruction," the senator said, a pointed reference to the failure to find the vast chemical and biological arms stockpiles Bush warned posed a threat to US security. *AFP*

Execs ...

From page A1

rectors and executives were in fact receiving reasonable salaries, like her appointees at the National Food Authority and Philippine Postal Corp.

She also stressed that the planned rationalization of GOCC salaries would not affect those "talented" directors and officers whom she did not want to lose to the private sector.

She said she had left it to Boncodin to determine how much the government should pay these "talented" persons to keep them from quitting and taking private jobs.

Through MO No. 25, issued in 2001, the President suspended salary increases and increased benefits for all senior officers and directors or trustees and mandated all GOCCs to limit their pay scales to only twice the standardized rates for comparable national government positions.

But GOCC directors and officers continue to enjoy handsome salaries and perks, according to a DBM report.

Boncodin said that in setting their own salaries, GOCC directors were not doing anything illegal. But she said it was improper, especially in light of the fiscal crisis.

The President said that while rationalizing GOCC salaries would yield only marginal savings, it would improve ethics in the government particularly at a time when the public was being asked to share the burden of solving the shortfall in revenues.

"[GOCC executives] might have suffered pain from their bottom lines but not necessarily in their individual paychecks," she said, adding:

"Good governance must always be marked by a culture of restraint, and sacrifice must be an inherent part of public service."

She commended those executives who had voluntarily announced taking pay cuts "while reorienting their respective organizations to the imperatives of discipline and effectiveness"—an apparent reference to Winston Garcia of the Government Service and Insurance System and Fe Barin of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

At the lunch meeting, Ms Arroyo also announced that she had abolished the Presidential Committee on Effective Governance and transferred its function of reengineering the bureaucracy to the DBM.

"Like any other committee, it is not effective," she said. "[The members] only meet and nobody does any checking on every corporation. Now it's Emy's (Boncodin's) responsibility."

Former Danding lawyer disbarred for immorality

From page A1

attacked when nobody was looking," the high court said of Leo J. Palma whom it ordered disbarred for "gross immoral conduct and for violating his oath as a lawyer."

In a decision dated Sept. 15, 2004, the high court granted Cojuangco's 22-year-old complaint against Palma, his former private counsel, who had secretly married his daughter, then 22-year-old Maria Luisa "Lisa" Cojuangco, in Hong Kong on June 22, 1982 without her parents' knowledge.

Palma was then already married to Elizabeth Hermosisima with whom he had three children.

"The circumstances here speak of a clear case of betrayal of trust and abuse of confidence. It was (Palma's) closeness to the (Cojuangco) family as well as the latter's complete trust in him that made possible his intimate relationship with Lisa," the SC said.

The tribunal said Palma's culpability was aggravated by the fact that Lisa was just a 22-year-old college student who was "under psychological treatment for emotional immaturity."

"Naturally, she was an easy prey," the tribunal said.

The tribunal also pointed out that Palma even secured a plane ticket from Cojuangco's office in order to marry Lisa in Hong Kong.

"He exhibited a deplorable lack of that degree of morality required of him as a member of the Bar. In particular, he made a mockery of marriage which is a sacred institution demanding respect and dignity. His act of contracting a second marriage is contrary to honesty, justice, decency and morality," it said.

The disbarment case had dragged on for years through the Pasay City court, the SC and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines which finally resolved it in March 2003. The IBP recommended that Palma be suspended from the practice of law for a period of three years, later reduced by the IBP board of governors to only one-year suspension.

The Supreme Court disagreed with the IBP's recommended light penalty.

"While (Cojuangco) himself admitted that respondent was a good lawyer, however, professional competency alone does not make a lawyer a worthy member of the Bar. Good moral character is always an indispensable requirement," it said.

The SC said Palma's act "was manifestly immoral. First, he abandoned his lawful wife and three children. Second, he lured an innocent young woman into marrying him. And third, he misrepresented himself as a 'bachelor' so he could contract marriage in a foreign land."

The tribunal dismissed Palma's defense that he "really loved Lisa and since he married her, he cannot be charged with immorality."

"His reasoning shows a distorted mind and a brazen regard on the sanctity of marriage. In such relationship, the man and the woman are obliged to live together, observe mutual respect and fidelity," the court said.

Cojuangco met Palma sometime in the 1970s when the businessman was a client of the Angara Concepcion Regala & Cruz law offices (Accra). Palma was the Accra lawyer assigned to handle Cojuangco's cases.

Cojuangco subsequently hired Palma as his personal counsel.

"Consequently, Palma's relationship with the Cojuangcos became intimate. He traveled and dined with them abroad. He frequented their house and even tutored Lisa," the SC said.

On June 22, 1982, without Cojuangco's knowledge, Palma married Lisa in Hong Kong.

Palma had misrepresented himself as a "bachelor" before the Hong Kong authorities so that he could marry Lisa, the high court said.

The day after the wedding, Palma informed Cojuangco about the marriage and assured him that "everything is legal."

Cojuangco, who knew that Palma was a married man and had three children, was shocked. He found out, upon investigation, that Palma had been courting Lisa during their tutoring sessions.

Immediately, Cojuangco sent his two sons to Hong Kong to convince Lisa to return to Manila and discuss the matter with the family.

On Aug. 24, 1982, Cojuangco asked the Pasay City Court of First Instance to nullify the marriage. He also filed disbarment proceedings against Palma.

In his complaint, Cojuangco said "the great disparity in intelligence, education, age, experience and maturity" between his daughter and Palma gave the latter "an overwhelming moral ascendancy over (her) as to overcome her scruples and apprehensions about respondent's courtship and advances."

"(He) courted Maria Luisa with persistence and determination and even pursued her in her travels abroad under false pretenses that he was traveling on official business for complainant. To break down the final resistance of Maria Luisa and assuage her pangs of guilt, he made representations that there was no legal impediment whatsoever to his marrying," he added.

Cojuangco said Palma also failed to have his marriage with Hermosisima nullified and ask for "advice" from Lisa's parents as she was then just 22 years old.

Palma asked the high court to dismiss the complaint on the ground of lack of cause of action.

He claimed that Cojuangco failed to allege acts "constituting deceit, malpractice, gross misconduct or violation of his lawyer's oath."

As to the charge of grossly immoral conduct, Palma said that he married Lisa in "utmost sincerity and good faith" and that "it is contrary to the natural course of things for an immoral man to marry the woman he sincerely loves."

On Nov. 2, 1982, the Pasay court ruled that Palma's marriage to Lisa was null and void ab initio.

On March 2, 1983, the SC referred the disbarment complaint to the Office of the Solicitor General for investigation.

Palma tried to stop the OSG investigation in March 1984 but the OSG denied his motion. He then went to the Supreme Court, which stopped the OSG inquiry on Dec. 19, 1984.

The case was later referred to the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Commission on Bar Discipline. The case dragged on until Oct. 19, 1998, when IBP Commissioner Julio C. Elamparo asked Cojuangco if he was still interested.

Cojuangco said he was still interested but Palma failed to attend the hearings even until the deadline lapsed on Jan. 24, 2002.

With Palma's failure to attend the hearings on his case, the IBP set the case for resolution.

IN THE KNOW

THE SUPREME Court defines immoral conduct as "that conduct which is willful, flagrant, or shameless, and which shows a moral indifference to the opinion of the good and respectable members of the community."

It is one of the grounds provided by the Rules of Court which may merit a lawyer's disbarment or suspension from the practice of law.

Disbarment is the ultimate disciplinary penalty against a lawyer for it bars him from practicing law in the country. Suspension may be for months and years, depending on the gravity of the charges.

Other grounds for disbarment and suspension against a member of the bar are any deceit, malpractice, or other gross misconduct, grossly immoral conduct, or by reason of his conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude, or for any violation of the Attorney's Oath which he is required to take before admission to practice of law, or for a willful disobedience of any lawful order of a superior court, or for corruptly or willfully appearing as an attorney for a party to a case without authority to do so. The practice of soliciting cases at law for the purpose of gain, either personally or through paid agents or brokers, constitutes malpractice.

Any person can file a disbarment, suspension or disciplinary complaint against a member of the bar before the Supreme Court or the Integrated Bar of the Philippines. The complaint must only be verified and must state clearly and concisely the facts complained of. It must also be supported by affidavits of persons having personal knowledge of the facts alleged or such other documents as may substantiate the facts alleged.

If a complaint is against justices, even if lawyers are jointly charged with them, it must be filed with the Supreme Court. If filed before the IBP, the same will still be forwarded to the Supreme Court for disposition and adjudication.

Proceedings against attorneys are private and confidential. However, the final order of the Supreme Court shall be published like its decisions in other cases.

PDI Research

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

44 killed in US air strikes in Fallujah

FALLUJAH, Iraq—At least 44 people were killed Friday as US forces continued their relentless strikes against targets allegedly connected to al-Qaida-linked extremist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi near Fallujah, medical sources said, adding that many of the victims were women and children.

Several air raids were carried out after midnight, hitting the village of Zoba, some 16 km south of the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, and demolishing 13 houses, the sources said.

The final death toll was 44 dead and 27 injured, the Iraqi health ministry said.

Earlier, a Fallujah doctor, Ahmed Halhlil, told AFP 30 bodies were brought from Zoba to Fallujah general hospital as well as 40 wounded. He said many of the victims were women and children.

The doctor also said two women were killed and eight people wounded in another raid on Fallujah's Shuhada neighborhood, which has been repeatedly targeted by the US-led coalition.

Witnesses said several people were still trapped in the ruins of the destroyed houses in Zoba.

"With the authorization of Prime Minister (Iyad) Allawi, Multi-National Forces-Iraq conducted a precision strike and destroyed a terrorist compound known to be used by the Abu Musab Al Zarqawi terrorists for the planning of activity subversive to the Iraqi government and its people," a US military statement said.

"The terrorists targeted in this strike were believed to be associated with recent bombing attacks and other terrorist activities throughout Iraq that have resulted in the deaths of numerous Iraqi citizens," it said.

The military later said it killed 60 foreign fighters in what it described as a strike that leveled a three-building compound on the outskirts of Fallujah.

The military claimed up to 90 foreign fighters had gathered inside the compound to plot attacks against US and Iraqi forces when the coalition forces attacked.

The claim could not be verified and it was not clear whether the death toll reported by the Fallujah hospital included any of the foreign fighters.

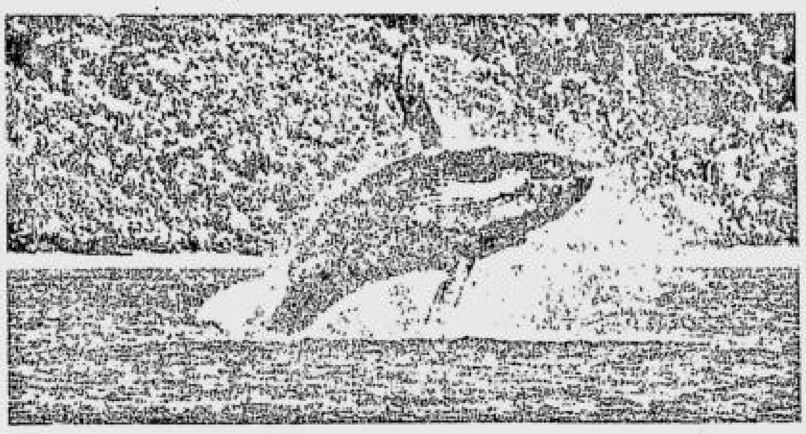
Three US Marines died Thursday in Al-Anbar province, which includes Fallujah and Ramadi, but the location was not specified. The killings were not linked to the late night strikes.

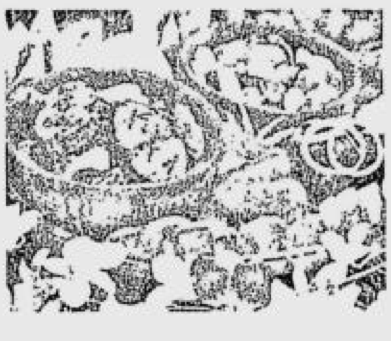
Fallujah general hospital, which has been flooded with casualties because of the repeated strikes in recent days, was filled with chaotic scenes early Friday as civilians brought their own wounded in and ambulances arrived.

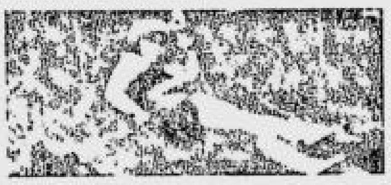
On Monday, US strikes in the area killed 15 people and wounded scores.

When killed in combat, foreign fighters are not always brought to government hospitals and morgues and often remain unaccounted for.

The US military said the strikes were conducted at 9:45 p.m., adding that the foreign fighters were pushed toward a village, forcing the army to "discontinue the engagement of those terrorists in order to protect the civilian populace." *AFP*







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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Sep 18-19	Batanes Days
Sep 20	Opening Pagayaya Food Festival (Manila Pavillion)
Sep 21-Oct 3	Pagayaya Food Festival
Sep 20 – 21	Nueva Vizcaya Days
Sep 22 – 23	Cagayan Days
Sep 24 – 25	Tuguegarao City Days
Sep 26 – 27	Quirino Days
Sep 28 – 29	Santiago City Days
Sep 30	Singing Priest of Archdiocese of Tuguegarao
Oct 1	ISU Cultural Group
Oct 2-3	Isabela Days Closing Day
Oct 4	Egress

DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES:
• Viewing of Exhibits • Trade Fair • Craft / Cooking Demo • Video Presentation • Cultural Shows • Tour Inquiries • Product Selling • Regional Showcase Tour • Wall Climbing/Rapelling

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2004 – BATANES DAY
AM – RAFTS AND ARTS DEMONSTRATION, Basket Weaving, Vakul Making etc.; VIEWING OF EXHIBITS AT THE IVATAN HOUSE & BOOTH SHOPPING;
PM – ONE STOP SHOP INFORMATION, FAST FACTS, TOUR PACKAGES OF BETC AND BATANES RESORT; CRAFTS AND ARTS DEMO; AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATION AND SHOWING; FOOD TASTING – Ivatan Pastry (DIKU); CULTURAL PRESENTATION Featuring the typical Ivatan way of Cooperativism and
unity dubbed As PAYUHWAN FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 19, 2004 – BATANES DAY
AM – CRAFTS AND ARTS; DEMONSTRATION • Basket Weaving, Vakul Making; VIEWING OF EXHIBITS AT THE IVATAN HOUSE & BOOTH SHOPPING
PM – ONE-STOP SHOP INFORMATION; CRAFTS AND ARTS DEMO; IVATAN LANGUAGE LEARNING/STORY
TELLING; AUDIO VISUAL PRESENTATION; MASS; CULTURAL PRESENTATION: Featuring the typical Ivatan way of Cooperativism and unity dubbed As PAYUHWAN FESTIVAL; MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT; AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION

SEPTEMBER 20 -21, 2004 – NUEVA VIZCAYA DAYS TRADE FAIR; Street Dancing; CULTURAL PRESENTATION • Songs, dances, etc. • Stage Play • Iwil an Yumina: Legend of Salinas Salt Spring; FOOD SAMPLING/TASTING: Tupig And Inandila

SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2004 – AGGAO NAC CAGAYAN FESTIVAL
AM – TRADE, INVESTMENT & TOURISM FAIR; FOOD SAMPLING CRAFT DEMO;
PM – HOLY MASS; VIDEO PRESENTATION; CULTURAL PERFORMANCES FROM CAGAYANOS

SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2004 – TUGUEGARAO CITY DAYS
AM – FILM VIEWING
PM – CRAFT DEMO • Salakot Making; HOLY MASS; CULTURAL PRESENTATION; FOOD SAMPLING – Tsokolate (cacao) CRAFT DEMO – Salakot Making FILM VIEWING CULTURAL PRESENTATION

SEPTEMBER 26, 2004 – QUIRINO DAY
AM – Film Showing, STREETDANCING CULTURAL PRESENTATION
PM – CRAFT DEMO (fossilized flower making); VIDEO SHOW; CULTURAL PRESENTATION Dance; Drama (Legend of Aglipay Caves);

SEPTEMBER 27, 2004 – QUIRINO DAY
TOURISM AND TRADE FAIR
PM – REGIONAL TOURISM QUIZ CONTEST; CRAFT DEMO (fossilized flower making); CULTURAL PRESENTATION; STREET-DANCING; CULTURAL PRESENTATION Dance Drama (Legend of Aglipay Caves); FILM VIEWING

SEPTEMBER 28 -29, 2004 – SANTIAGO CITY DAYS VIDEO PRESENTATION/ TRADE FAIR SANTIAGO CITY
PROGRAM
PM – CULTURAL PRESENTATION

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 1, 2004
TOURISM AND TRADE FAIR
PM – CULTURAL PRESENTATION • Singing Priest of the
Archdiocese of Tuguegarao • Cultural Group of Isabela
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OCTOBER 2 -3, 2004 – ISABELA DAYS
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PM – FOOD SAMPLING • Pansit Cabagan (Cabagan) • Binallay & Inatata (Ilagan); CRAFT DEMO • Palanan Weavers (Palanan) • Wood Carving (Ilagan); FILM VIEWING (power point & tapes); CULTURAL PRESENTATION • Ta-da'n dibang • Message by Congresswoman Henedina Abad • Musical Instrumental Renditions • Harana Ivatan; MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT; "TADAN" IVATAN GALA DANCE

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NISSAN

Bush, Kerry in tight race, fresh polls indicate

WASHINGTON—Fresh polls showed the bitter and volatile presidential race between George W. Bush and John Kerry back to a dead heat as the two candidates stepped up their war of words over Iraq.

Surveys released Thursday by the Pew Research Center and Harris Interactive had Kerry wiping out a solid lead Bush forged with a month of attacks on his Democratic rival capped by the Republican national convention.

The Pew data showed the Massachusetts senator clawing his way back from a 12-point deficit among registered voters interviewed between Sept. 8 and 10 to a 46-46 percent tie four days later.

A Harris poll of likely voters published in the Wall Street Journal had Kerry up 48-47 percent. The twin findings were in marked contrast to previous surveys that showed Bush opening up a margin of two to 12 points.

But although Bush's post-convention "bounce" appeared to be subsiding less than seven weeks before the Nov. 2 election, the latest numbers still had some worrying news for Kerry.

Bush held a double-digit lead on his capacity to manage the Iraq crisis and led nearly two-to-one on combating terrorism, Pew said. If Kerry regained a six-point lead on the economy, it was still down from a 15-point margin in August.

The Pew poll also confirmed Kerry's backing was soft. Sixty-one percent of those backing the Democrat said they were more anti-Bush than pro-Kerry, while 78 percent of the president's supporters were positively pro-Bush.

BUSH AP

KERRY AP

Sixty percent of voters expected Bush to win a second four-year term, up from 44 percent in August. Even Democrats were pessimistic about Kerry's chances: the number predicting victory for him dropped from 66 to 43 percent.

Pew said the pool of uncertain voters had increased from 21 to 25 percent since June and suggested the presidential debates expected to begin in two weeks could be crucial with 61 percent of voters planning to tune in.

While Kerry and the Democrats have vowed to refocus their campaign on the lackluster US economy, Iraq again dominated the debate Thursday amid continuing turmoil and new criticism from the United Nations.

Bush, campaigning in Minnesota state, defended the March 2003 invasion which UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called illegal, and accused Kerry of sending dangerous "mixed signals" on the operation.

The president did not directly address Annan's remarks but referred to the UN Security Council resolution in November 2002 warning of "serious consequences" if Iraq did not account for its weapons of mass destruction.

"I believe when bodies say something, they better mean it," Bush said, making no mention of his failure to win UN Security Council support for a second resolution explicitly authorizing the use of force.

The Republican also reiterated he would have invaded Iraq even if he knew no unconventional weapons would be found, and he assailed Kerry as a waffler who first voted to authorize the use of force in Iraq and then opposed the war.

"Mixed signals are the wrong signals to send to our troops in the field, the Iraqi people, to our allies and most of all to our enemies," Bush told a rally.

"It is critical that the president of the United States speak clearly and consistently in this time of great threat in the world and not change positions because of expediency or pressure." *AFP*

Envoys taken to site of Nokor mystery blast

BEIJING—Foreign diplomats taken to the apparent scene of a mystery explosion in North Korea were shown a large building site and told two blasts occurred, but South Korea Friday cast doubt on Pyongyang's explanation.

Suspicions were aroused that a nuclear test could have taken place after South Korea reported last week a massive mushroom cloud was kicked up in an area known to contain storage sites for missiles and explosives.

To prove this was not the case, North Korea took a group of foreign diplomats to what it said was the site of the explosion in rugged Kimhyungjik county Thursday.

"They went to a huge building site," said a German diplomat in Pyongyang, who was briefed by German Ambassador to North Korea Doris Hertramps who visited the area.

"North Korea explained that there had been two large explosions, one on Wednesday and one on Thursday last week," he said.

The North said they were controlled explosions to remove a mountain in preparation for construction of a hydro-electric power project.

The diplomat confirmed they had been shown a hydro-electric plant but was unable to confirm evidence of explosions.

"It's very hard to tell," he said.

"The ambassador is not a technical expert so we need experts to examine what we have been told and what we have seen." South Korea now says it believes no such explosions took place at the site.

It said the diplomats were taken to an area some 60 km east of where the suspected blasts were recorded—an area where Pyongyang has previously said it was building a vast dam.

"We suspect there was no blast at all at the site where intelligence authorities originally thought there were indications of a blast," Vice Unification Minister Lee Bong-jo told reporters in Seoul.

He said that an earth tremor was recorded on the day of the suspected explosion, but it was found to have originated near Mountain Baikdu on the border with China, some 100 km from Kimhyungjik county, and not where the diplomats went. *AFP*

Prince Harry wants to carry on Diana's work

LONDON—Prince Harry, who turned 20 this week, says in a documentary about his gap year in Lesotho that he wants to carry on the humanitarian work of his mother, the late Princess Diana.

"The Forgotten Kingdom: Prince Harry In Lesotho," to be broadcast Sunday on Britain's main commercial ITV channel, features his first-ever on-camera interview. Excerpts were released for publication Thursday.

Harry vowed to carry on the legacy of his mother, who was killed in August 1997, a year after her divorce from Prince Charles, heir to the British throne.

"I believe I've got a lot of my mother in me, basically, and I think she'd want us to do this, me and my brother" Prince William, he said, referring to his time with AIDS orphans in Lesotho.

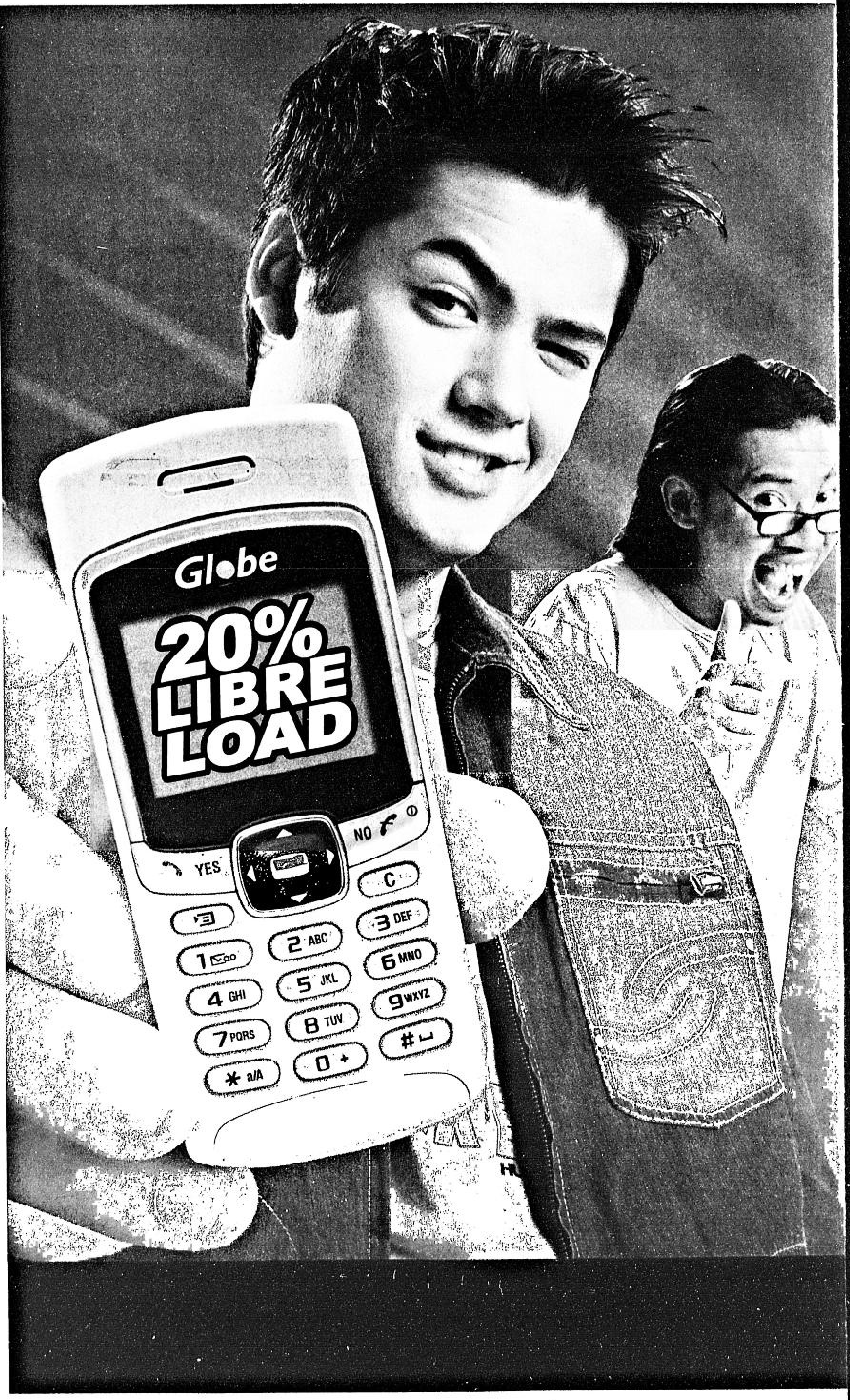
Harry, who is hoping to attend Britain's elite Sandhurst military college, spent eight weeks in the southern African country earlier this year during his gap year, or year off, shedding some of his image as a gregarious party animal.

The documentary shows him playing with AIDS orphans and making friends with a 4-year-old boy, Mutsu Potsane, at the Mants'ase Children's Home in Mohale's Hoek.

"He was just a really special kid ... No father, no mother, really sweet, a little devil sometimes, but really, really good fun," said Harry.

Although he has not been tested, Mutsu is believed to have either the HIV virus or full-blown AIDS and is unlikely to live past the age of 10. Both Mutsu's parents have died of the illness.

Harry was also filmed cradling a 10-month-old girl named Liketso, in a scene reminiscent of Diana's humanitarian mission to another African nation, Angola, shortly before her death. *AFP*



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Chechen owns school hostage-taking

CHEN warlord Shamil Basayev. AFP

MOSCOW—Radical Chechen rebel leader Shamil Basayev purportedly took responsibility for a recent series of terrorist attacks in Russia but put ultimate blame for a school massacre on Russian President Vladimir Putin.

A lengthy e-mail attributed to Basayev and posted Friday on the Kavkaz-Center website said he had sent a letter to Putin proposing "independence (for Chechnya) in exchange for security." It was impossible to confirm whether the text—signed by Basayev's nom de guerre, "Abdallakh Shamil, Emir of the Riyadus Salikhin Martyrs' Brigade,"—on the website was genuine. But the site is considered a mouthpiece for Basayev and his previous claims of responsibility have appeared there.

The letter to Putin said that if Russia withdrew its troops and recognized Chechen independence, Chechnya would neither support nor finance groups fighting Russia, and "we can guarantee that all of Russia's Muslims would refrain from armed methods of struggle against the Russian Federation, at least for 10-15 years, on condition that freedom of religion (as is guaranteed in the Russian Federation) be respected."

The letter said Chechnya would join the Commonwealth of Independent States, a loose federation of former Soviet republics.

The e-mail said Basayev's brigade was responsible for an August explosion at a bus stop outside Moscow, the near-simultaneous bombings of two planes the same night, a suicide bombing outside a Moscow subway station a week later, and the school hostage-taking in Beslan that ended in a hail of gunfire and explosions.

More than 430 people were killed in the attacks, with some 338 of those deaths coming during the hostage crisis in the Beslan school.

"A terrible tragedy occurred in the city of Beslan; the Kremlin vampire destroyed and wounded 1,000 children and adults, giving the ordering to storm the school for the sake of imperial ambitions and the preservation of his own throne," the e-mail attributed to Basayev said.

Putin and other officials said repeatedly that in order to avert a bloodbath, they had not planned to storm the school, where the attackers had rigged bombs surrounding the approximately 1,200 hostages. According to Russian officials and witnesses, after explosions rocked the school, and armed volunteers started shooting, the special forces opened fire, too.

But the e-mail disputed that.

"We declare that the Russian special services stormed the school, (and that) it was planned from the very beginning," it said.

It alleged that Emergency Situations Ministry workers who entered the school to purportedly collect bodies of hostages who had been killed early in the crisis were really security service officers, and that the explosions rang out only after those workers had yelled "Run out!" to the hostages.

The attackers' demands had been clear: an immediate stop to the war in Chechnya and a start to the withdrawal of Russian troops, or Putin's resignation if he "does not want peace," the letter said. If the president would decree an end to fighting, the return of troops to their barracks and a troop withdrawal, it said, the attackers promised they would give the hostages water. And if the troops were really being withdrawn, they would have given them food.

"As soon as the troops are withdrawn from the mountains, we will let children up to age 10 go, the rest after the full troop withdrawal," it said of the attackers' conditions.

If Putin had resigned, the attackers would have freed all the children and left for Chechnya with the remainder of the hostages, the e-mail said.

Putin has firmly ruled out any negotiations with Chechen rebels, insisting that the war-battered region is returning to normalcy under the Kremlin's twin programs of vesting increasing authority in elected Chechen officials and law enforcement services and reconstruction. **AP**

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P66-P70	P14
P71-P75	P15
P76-P80	P16
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P86-P90	P18
P91-P95	P19
P96-P100	P20
P101-P105	P21

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WorldBriefs

'Ivan' kills 14 in US

GULF SHORES, Alabama— Hurricane Ivan killed at least 14 people in the southern United States, with three states declared official disaster areas and three cities under dusk-to-dawn curfews. The Florida city of Pensacola, which suffered some of the worst damage from Ivan after it struck Wednesday night, is added to a list of several localities in the southern part of the state that were devastated in the past six weeks by hurricanes Charley and Frances. With the hurricane season in full swing and extremely active, Americans were now keeping an anxious watch over Hurricane Jeanne as it battered Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, possibly on its way to the US coast. Authorities on Thursday imposed dusk-to-dawn curfews in Pensacola and in the Alabama cities of Gulf Shores, where the storm hit the coast, and Mobile. The measure was to prevent looting and help emergency teams circulate. **AFP**

Annan urges Darfur action

UNITED NATIONS—Secretary General Kofi Annan on Thursday called on the UN Security Council to take urgent action over a US draft resolution on Sudan's troubled Darfur region. "I have urged the Security Council to act on the draft resolution without delay and to be as united as possible," he told reporters. "It seems to me inconceivable that it should fail to respond." China has threatened to veto the measure and Ambassador Wang Guangya said earlier that Beijing still had problems with the draft, which is aimed at pressing Sudan to rein in the Arab militias behind the Darfur bloodshed. The resolution hangs the threat of sanctions against Sudan's oil industry if Khartoum does not end the violence, which has left an estimated 50,000 people dead and displaced 1.4 million more. **AFP**

Iran nuclear program

VIENNA—The United States and Europe's three main states reached agreement Thursday in Vienna on a UN draft resolution on Iran's alleged nuclear weapons program, a US official said. The resolution does not set an Oct. 31 ultimatum for Iran to comply with demands from the UN nuclear watchdog, according to a copy of the text obtained by AFP. A US State Department official told AFP the text had been approved by President George W. Bush's top non-proliferation official, Undersecretary of State John Bolton, but still had to be approved by Secretary of State Colin Powell. It also must be approved by the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) 35-nation board of governors, meeting this week in Vienna. Many members of the board, including non-aligned nations, had been hostile to the US' insistence on an ultimatum. The United States, which charges that Iran is secretly developing nuclear weapons, would like to see the IAEA board judge Iran in non-compliance with nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) safeguards and take Tehran before the UN Security Council for possible sanctions. **AFP**

Huge strike hits S. Africa

PRETORIA—Hundreds of thousands of teachers, nurses, police and other public sector employees walked off the job across South Africa on Thursday to demand better wages in one of the biggest strikes since the end of apartheid a decade ago. Eight unions representing close to one million employees launched the nationwide one-day strike and told the government to come up with a better salary offer in 48 hours or face a new wave of protest action on Monday and Tuesday. "Negotiations have reached a dead end ... the public service is heading for a crisis," said Fekile Majola, the general secretary of the National Education Health and Allied Workers Union, at the main, protest march in Pretoria. The country's largest labor federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), said about 700,000 workers, including 320,000 teachers, stayed away from work but the government said about 250,000 public sector workers took part in the strike. Government negotiator Kenny Govendor told AFP that initial figures showed the education sector was most affected with 180,000—half of all teachers—downing chalks. "But there was no real impact in the essential services sector," Govendor said. **AFP**

Deadly mystery bird ailment

ATHENS—Wildlife experts are baffled by the deaths of thousands of birds at a lake in northern Greece, a spokesperson for the Greek Ornithological Society said. At least 4,500 birds are known to have died at Lake Koronia, a nature site supposedly protected from industrial pollution, for unknown reasons in just over a week, and the toll could rise to 15,000 or more, Xenofon Kappas said **AFP**

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Profits from crime

EDITORIAL

OUR recent series on the epidemic of cell phone thefts and robberies, which we've published in concert with our media partners, indicates several problems we've addressed in this space. The first is that the rampant theft and resale of stolen phones present one of the most accessible gauges of the government's law enforcement efforts. Or, as our reports have shown, the failure of those efforts.

Another remarkable thing about the widespread racket involving stolen cell phones is that we Filipinos spend a large percentage of our resources on the service—both for the phones themselves and the services cell-phone providers offer.

The third thing is that consumers really have very limited options when it comes to securing their cell phones.

Our front page last Monday instructed our readers on how to get their International Mobile Equipment Identity or IMEI number. This number is needed when you make a report to the National Telecommunications Commission in case your phone is lost or stolen. A reported number can then be listed as stolen or lost, and the NTC can in turn instruct cell-phone companies to block those phones, making them useless.

Of course, there is the problem that just as cell phones "locked" to a particular telecom provider can be "unlocked" for P150 or less in stalls in many commercial districts, the IMEI number of a phone can be changed by programmers in the same stalls. This is, in fact, a security problem that plagues all kinds of technology: the crooks are often several steps ahead of the law enforcers.

However, when telecom providers state, as a spokesperson for one company told our Business section last Wednesday, that cell phone theft is a "purely law enforcement issue," they aren't being fair to consumers. To argue that it is the job of the police to go after phone snatchers passes the buck to the government, which is obviously not up to the job, while leaving consumers in the lurch.

The fact is that if ways were found to make the reporting and disabling of stolen phones easier and more effective for the consumers, a large portion of the law enforcement work of the government would be done. A useless, disabled phone, is a phone that cannot be sold or traded. And we must ask what the telecom providers have done to make cell phone security easier for their customers.

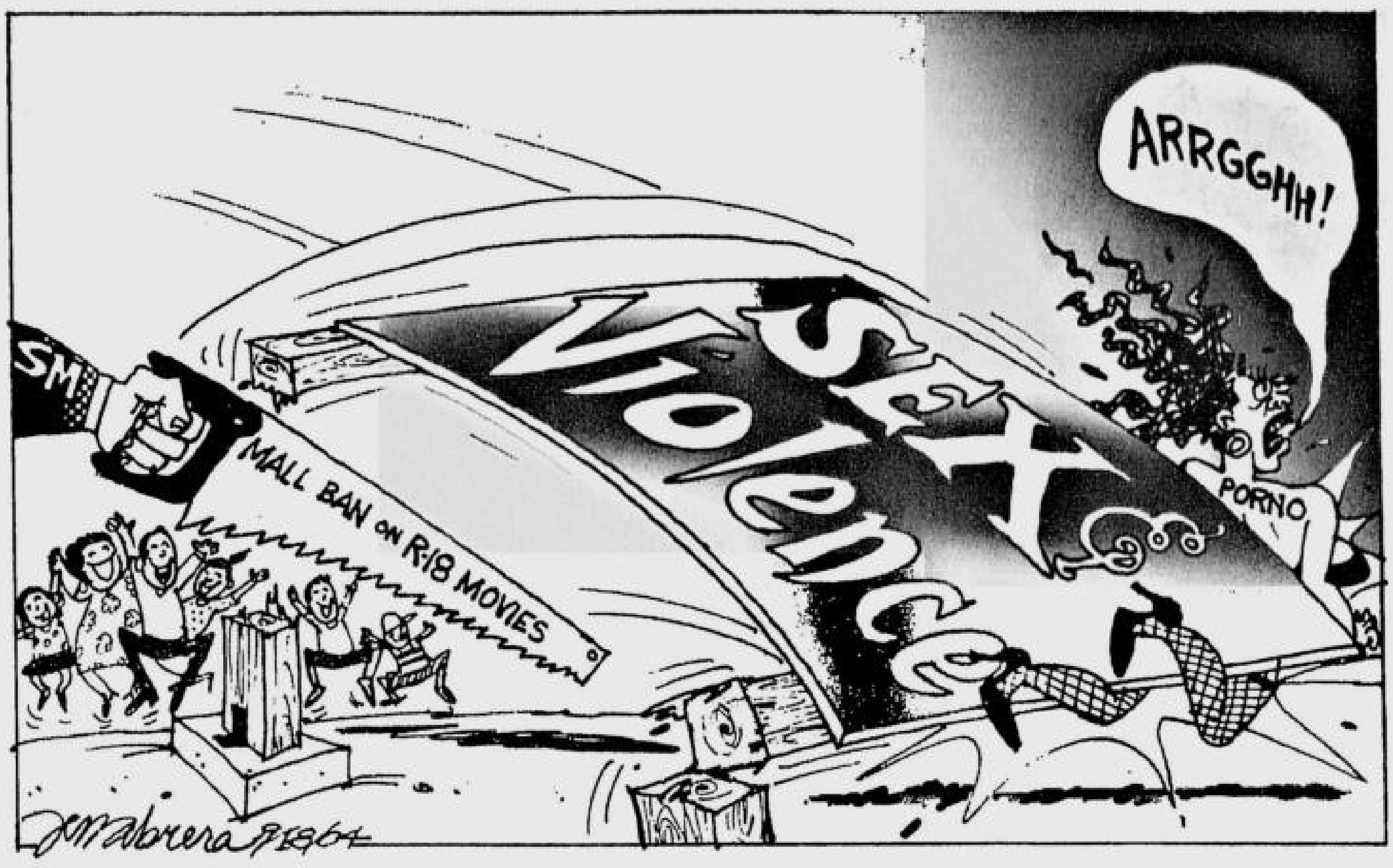
We have yet to hear of a telecom provider taking the time, effort and expense to brief their customers on their cell phone security options. It begins with most phones having a programmable security code, which the consumer can program into their handsets, much like the PIN in an automatic teller machine. There is, too, the notorious PUK code, the importance of which is known to many consumers who inadvertently lose or trigger them, requiring a call to the telecom provider. Then there is the serial number of each phone as well as its IMEI number.

In sum, security for the consumer begins with information. Just as telecom providers spend millions in advertising the many attractive ways consumers can avail themselves of their services (and thus spend), these companies should make it part of their responsibility to inform their customers on how to secure their phones. Between the telecom provider, the handset manufacturers and the consumer, a whole array of options already exist to improve cell phone security.

Instead, no resources for cell phone security are offered by telecom providers, because where's the profit in doing so? A lost phone means increased sales, one way or another, whether for lost or damaged SIM cards, actual handsets, or more prepaid cards. Lost phones, besides supporting a growing and highly lucrative underground economy, eventually trickles down to handset manufacturers.

Is it unfair to argue that by omission, telecom providers and handset manufacturers are actually abetting criminality? The telecom providers say this is actually what media reports imply. But it is not media that imply this, fairly or not. It is the public. And common sense.

We cannot continue passing the buck—or the phone. Telecom providers can play a large role in stamping out an illegal industry that thrives on petty crime and unethical reprogramming of equipment. It cannot put all the responsibility on the NTC, or the police, because in the end, it continues to profit, however indirectly, from the criminality of others.



A curious case

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

A CASE involving millions of public funds allegedly misappropriated, a Compromise Agreement claimed to have been entered into in violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, the Local Government Code and other laws, valuable real estate now occupied by the Provincial Capitol Building of Cavite and other public structures, and an Amended Decision sustaining the Compromise Agreement is expected to be filed momentarily before the Court of Appeals to restrain the enforcement of the said decision and eventually annul it.

The petitioner is Juanito Victor C. Remulla in his capacity as vice governor of Cavite and as an ordinary citizen and taxpayer. Among the respondents are RTC Judge Aurelio G. Icasiano Jr. of Trece Martires City, Erineo S. Maliksi as governor of Cavite, Renato Ignacio as legal officer of the province, the owners of the property subject of the controversy, and others.

The case goes back to 1981 when the province of Cavite instituted expropriation proceedings against lands consisting of 250,000 square meters with a market value of P0.86 per sq m, for a total market value of P215,000. The province entered the whole property on Jan. 4, 1982, with the permission of the court. In their answer to the complaint, the owners claimed that the current market value of their property was P45 per sq m or P11,272,500 for the entire area.

In 1992 a committee on appraisal appointed by the court reported that the value of the land was P500 per sq m. In 1997 a new appraisal committee increased the valuation to P2,800 per sq m, which the province sought to reduce in 2003. Then in December of that year, Governor Maliksi and Ignacio as legal officer of the province, entered with the respondents in the expropriation case into a Compromise Agreement that is now the bone of contention in the petition to be filed by Remulla.

Under this agreement, the province of Cavite and Trece Martires City will retain only 116,287 sq m of the 261,250 sq m of the expropriated land, the rest to go back to the respondent owners. The province and the city will pay the defendants P50 million, and the expropriation complaint will be withdrawn. Without authority from the Provincial Board of Cavite, Icasiano joined the respondents in the expropriation case in asking for the approval of the Compromise Agreement by the court, which was granted by Judge Aurelio Icasiano Jr. in a decision issued on March 18, 2004. This was modified in the Amended Decision of March 25, 2004 which will be challenged on the several grounds to be raised in the petition.

The most questionable provision of the Compromise Agreement is the payment of P50 million to the defendants in the expropriation case by Trece Martires for the reduced area of land to be retained by the former expropriators. It is the rule in expropriation cases that the just compensation for the condemned land should be its value at the time of its taking, which in this case was 1982. Its value then was only P0.86 per sq m, or only the total sum of P215,000 for the original bigger area. Even at the defendants' price of P45 per sq m, the entire area (which was reduced by the Compromise Agreement) would have been only P11,272,500. Yet for the smaller area to go to Cavite and Trece Martires, they will now have to pay the owners a whopping P50 million.

In Republic v. Castellvi, 58 SCRA 336, the government entered the property as lessee in 1947 and renewed the lease annually until 1959, when it decided to expropriate the land. In determining just compensation, the owner said it should be based on the value of the property in 1959, with all the improvements introduced by the government, but the plaintiff said it should be 1947, when the property did not cost much. The Supreme Court held that the land should be appraised as of 1959, for that was when the government entered the property not as a mere lessee but as a permanent taker.

As Cavite and Trece Martires took the property in 1982, it should not be appraised as of 1997 as was done under the Compromise Agreement. The governor should have continued with the expropriation, especially since the land was already in the possession of the province and the city. The Compromise Agreement waived that advantage and might be considered greatly prejudicial to the government as to constitute a corrupt act under the graft law. The omission to first get the approval of the provincial board before entering into such agreement, and without the necessary appropriation made for the prescribed payment, makes the transaction doubly suspect.

Vice Governor Remulla has other objections he intends to raise when he brings this serious matter to the Court of Appeals. Whether he succeeds or not, he will be doing a useful service to the people by informing them of this vital issue that affects them as concerned and curious citizens.

Diamond opportunities

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

IT seems there are a great deal of opportunities banging at the country's door, so to speak. And the right kind of opportunities at that: for new export markets, for labor intensive, high local-value added agri-based industries. What more could anyone ask for?

We're talking about the right kind of growth here, growth that will create jobs, that is pro-poor, certainly sustainable. Certainly an answer to the country's prayers. So for heaven's sake, can we please open the door wide, grab the opportunities, and exploit them to the full?

What are these golden, nay, these diamond opportunities?

Coconuts, for one. So let's forget that pharmacologist Dr. Conrado Dayrit was for many long years a lonely voice in the wilderness and virtually ignored, until an American nutritionist, Dr. Bruce Fife, came here last May and extolled the therapeutic and nutritional values of the coconut (he was also, of course, publicizing his very well-researched book). Let's put aside any lingering disgust that the local coconut associations and the government coconut czars acted like doormats while lobbyists for competing oils carried out a successful smear campaign against the coconut, so much so that even The New York Times once advised its readers to avoid coconut oil like the plague.

That's all over now. Medical and nutritional research, particularly in the United States, has shown that coconut oil has it all over other oils (sunflower, corn, canola, palm, etc.) in practically every area of comparison. Coconut products are enjoying a major revival in the United States. What is needed now is for the government—the Philippine Coconut Authority, in particular—to get off its ass and work triple time on a worldwide information and marketing campaign to put Philippine coconut oil on the world' radar screen. If New Zealand could almost single-handedly make the kiwi a world household word in fruits, so should the Philippines make extra-virgin coconut oil a world household word in food supplements and alternative health products.

The joy of it all is that coconut oil can really be called "Nature's Blessing." Just take a look at the list of the health benefits of coconut oil, contained in Bruce Fife's book, "The Healing Miracles of Coconut Oil": it reduces risk of atherosclerosis and related illnesses; reduces risk of cancer and other degenerative conditions; helps prevent bacterial, viral and fungal (including yeast) infections; supports immune system function; helps control diabetes; provides an immediate source of energy; supports healthy metabolic function; improves digestion and nutrient absorption; supplies important nutrients necessary for good health; supplies fewer calories than other fats; promotes weight loss; helps prevent osteoporosis; has a mild delicate flavor; is highly resistant to spoilage (long shelf life); is heat resistant (the healthiest oil for cooking); helps keep skin soft and smooth; helps prevent premature aging and wrinkling of the skin; helps protect against skin cancer and other blemishes; functions as a protective antioxidant.

No wonder local entrepreneur Ramon Tan of Carica Herbal Health Products calls a bottle of virgin coconut oil "*botika sa botelya.*" So convinced is he of the therapeutic and health value of the product that he takes every opportunity to teach people in the rural areas how to make their own virgin coconut oil and urges them to take this on a daily basis like he does. He is also trying to set up a production and distribution system, Samahan ng Virgin Coconut sa Pilipinas, all over the country—composed of small farm and household entrepreneurs—that will provide uniform quality cold-processed virgin oil for sale either domestically or abroad.

Can you imagine what this will do for the incomes of coconut farmers? How this will impact on poverty alleviation as well as health improvement? Is this not the very essence of rural industrialization? So why is Tan doing it alone? Why doesn't the PCA, the entire government, get behind him? Setting and enforcing uniform standards are important. But so is packaging, marketing and product development.

The story behind Carica Herbal Health Products, by the way, is an inspiring one. It was established eight years ago by Ramon and his sisters Tina and Edita, professionals all, as their contribution to the development of their hometown of Catanauan, Quezon. Using inputs which grow in the area, this food-supplement firm uses locally available inputs, with product lines that include fermented papaya, berries, noni fruit juices and herbal teas, with extra-virgin coconut oil as its newest. The firm now does a P100 million business (all profits are reinvested), which provides direct employment to 100 factory workers and 10 "gatherers" in Catanauan (all inputs are bought from farmers in the surrounding area) as well as 120 sales workers in different Carica outlets. No wonder the New People's Army which is active in the area leaves them alone.

The firm exports 40 percent of its output—and is besieged by foreign buyers who ask if they can produce such things as a combination drink of green papaya and coconut water (recipe provided by buyers). Some they entertain, others they have to turn down.

By the way, my entire family is sold on extra-virgin, cold-pressed coconut oil—four generations of us, all told. Try it. We each take two tablespoons at night, straight or with a chaser.

View from the other side

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AT THE RECENT independence anniversary of five Central American countries, namely Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Panama and Honduras, I spent some time talking to some foreign executives and diplomats. I welcomed the opportunity to get a perspective that at times I fail to see. This is probably true of many of us Filipinos who are wrapped up in our own problems; we fail to view the perspective from the other side.

One foreigner I talked with is in the business of assessing for foreign investors the political and economic risks in this country. He said the perception abroad is that our Congress is frittering away precious time debating so many issues, such as the pork barrel and the GOCCs' salaries, when the more urgent thing to do is to address the budget deficit and how to raise revenues. This has raised the question of just how serious the government is in addressing its financial problems. This question, in turn, has caused prospective foreign investors to adopt a wait-and-see attitude.

* * *

This source stressed that the executive and the legislature have to work together to prevent a "real fiscal crisis" which could develop in the next few months, by concentrating on the "hard issues," instead of peripheral ones. Stressing that Congress has to pass those revenue measures, this analyst wondered why President Macapagal-Arroyo has not taken advantage of her dominant majority in the House to effect this. I pointed out that the Senate appears to be the stumbling block, but this source opined that the House ought to just pass the revenue measures and then toss them to the Senate, and "let the people judge."

* * *

One diplomat wondered why there is all the fuss about the pork barrel reduction when it won't really reduce the budget, since the P907 billion budget for 2005 already cuts it by 40 percent. The rest is still there, he noted. I opined that the abolition of the lump-sum pork barrel as proposed by Speaker Jose de Venecia and his group is a step toward more transparency and fiscal discipline, and in turn, this would make it easier for people to accept new taxes.

Another foreigner opined that this thing about "symbolism" can be over-stretched. For instance, he asked, why make a show of having styrofoam lunches and using plastic spoons at Palace functions? Weren't the china and silverware already bought? So, why not use them?

* * *

More and more people, it seems, notice that all Congress has done recently is debate various issues, when it should be passing the revenue measures, as the UP economists have stressed. It doesn't help to just keep assigning blame, as the senators are doing. They want the President to admit to her "mistakes" on various issues such as the GOCCs' conduct or the Napocor debt, but if you come right down to it, blame ought to be spread around.

* * *

Take the GOCCs' case. True, there are cases where GOCCs have been losing money while their officials continue to enjoy fat salaries and perks. But Malacañang also failed to rein them in even after it issued Memorandum 20 in June 2001, which pegged officials' salaries at no higher than P100,000 a month. That memo, I understand, was not implemented after the Palace realized that there were legal issues that needed to be addressed first, such as the GOCCs' charters. Congress also ought to share the blame as the power to regulate those charters belongs to it. Why didn't it do its job? As always, the Senate is giddy with probes.

As I said earlier, the patient badly needs medical attention in the emergency room, but the doctors are all still debating who's to blame for his condition. Let's save the patient first.

* * *

My blast against the dreadful condition of the ladies' room at Naia 1 drew an invitation to chat about airport problems from Alfonso Cusi, Naia 1 general manager and head of the Manila International Airport Authority. It was arranged by Amado Valdez, a private prosecutor at the Erap impeachment trial and later government corporate counsel, who had worked with Cusi in the Philippine Ports Authority that the latter headed prior to his new airport job. Cusi revealed that even his wife Angeles has been pressing him about the problem of unkempt airport toilets since he joined Naia last June. (I told him women are really more sensitive about this problem.) He said with a laugh that his wife was quite apprehensive about his accepting the high-profile and problem-plagued airport job. He said that a model toilet is being constructed and promised to invite me to see it.

I'm glad Cusi recognizes the importance of small details like this and that it's now being addressed without spending too much money.

* * *

Cusi, a Cebuano who was with Aboitiz Shipping for 19 years before he put up his own shipping company prior to his appointment to the government, is being credited with having helped in the implementation of GMA's "nautical highway," unarguably one of the best-working projects of this administration. He earlier worked with GMA on projects like the Pinatubo rehabilitation.

Cusi gave me an insight into GMA's plans for the country's airports. Her recent EO 341 placed Clark Airport and the other international airports such as Laoag, Cebu, Davao, Zamboanga City, Cagayan de Oro and General Santos, under the MIAA, making Cusi's job even bigger. He said GMA wants to develop Clark at the cost of about P2 billion and turn it into "another Cebu." This is to transform it into a logistic center for Asia, where cargo will land for transshipment to other points in the region. At the moment, only low-cost flights land there, but the new plans, which will be facilitated by the rehabilitation of the North Railway, will push its development, starting with the construction of a spanking new passenger terminal.

(More on this later)

Life after dance

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HERE'S the concluding portion of excerpts from Edna Vida Reyes-Froilan's account of "My Life after Maryknoll," written for her recognition as an "Amazing Alumna" during this year's annual Maryknoll-Miriam Alumni Homecoming. As is evident, Edna's not just an amazing Maryknoller, she's an amazing artist, writer, wife and mother as well.

* * *

NATALIA Makarova was a Russian prima ballerina who was the star of the American Ballet Theater in New York. She was invited to perform with Ballet Philippines in "Giselle," a role in which she was acclaimed worldwide. The next important role, after Giselle and the male lead Albrecht, was Myrtha, the Queen of the Wilis, a role reserved for every company's best ballerina. The ballerina who was to play Myrtha was vacationing in Germany. Since I had the height and the jumps (Myrtha's solo variations are full of leaps and turns), the re-stager of the ballet chose me to be her understudy.

When (the original Myrtha) arrived everyone was horrified... (she) had gained weight and was completely out of shape. After a series of rehearsals, the artistic staff decided I was going to do it.

As soon as Makarova stepped out of the plane, her first question was: "Who is doing Myrtha?" On our first rehearsal, she eyed me critically as I quivered, wobbled and tumbled. I felt that was it. She would never agree to dance with a miserable amateur. But she smiled, corrected me with a heavy Russian accent and we became fast friends.

Soon after "Giselle," a Swiss ballet master told me he was considering me for the role of "Firebird" with Nonoy. He wasn't sure if he would choose me or a male dancer. I had one year to prepare and it was the most nerve-wracking year. I wanted the role so badly, I had recurring nightmares about my rival.

Before opening night, I was petrified and weeping. I couldn't warm up, much less breathe. By the time the swing touched the floor, the sopping Firebird couldn't budge an inch. The rehearsal was called to a halt and an impromptu meeting was held. I was told I could sit instead of stand. Not much help. A dancer has to warm up before entering the stage. As soon as I landed, I had to dance an intricate solo followed by a pas de deux for 40 minutes nonstop. Nonoy and I had no alternates. We performed "Firebird" in 24 performances... A masseuse stood by to massage my feet just so I could complete the performance. After that I was very careful of wishing intensely for anything ever again.

* * *

WITH NINE years behind us as a steady couple, it was time to get married. Since my parents were against my marrying a dancer—no matter that he was a big star—we had to make do with our own resources. On our wedding night, Nonoy kissed me and rushed off to rehearsals. Such was our life in the performing arts. A wedding night was just one of those things.

When our first child, Michaela, was born, I went on leave. At that time Alice had moved to San Francisco and needed an associate director to run the company in Manila. I guess I was cut out for the position since I was not dancing. What unsettled me was that I was to be on top of prominent people in the company: Bill, our ballet master; Nonoy, the company's premiere danseur and rehearsal master; Jaime, our production manager; and appallingly, Chiqui, my best friend who was to be my secretary. I was under them during my entire dancing career. The lessons I learned continue to have bearing on my thoughts and actions to this day.

By then I was dancing, teaching and choreographing my own full length ballets. The hats I wore bore down on my psyche every day: administrator, dancer, teacher, choreographer. How I loved tossing the last hat the minute I boarded our car to head for home. But even there I had to put on a wife's hat.

After our second child, Rafael, was born, I just had to move on. It disturbed me that in mothering 60 dancers I orphaned my two children. Being on top of the world meant little when the mother in me ached for domesticity. I asked Nonoy if I could resign. That meant half of our income down the drain. Would he take it? Yes, he said, and so I resigned.

* * *

AFTER ANOTHER three years in the front lines, Nonoy at last bid dancing farewell. The audiences who adored him were distraught. His ex-partners from all over the world came to dance with him during the final curtain. Little did people know that their dedicated and noble artist had his electricity cut off because he couldn't pay his bills on time. I could not take the mockery of my husband's life as a Filipino artist. He was leaving the company without financial compensation and his only reward was a tiny statue and the confetti that poured on him and his family on stage.

After the ruckus of his "Tribute" at the CCP, we sat in our living room and asked each other: What now? Okay, I'm going to write. That was income. And so I became a writer. I returned to my first love, writing. I wrote a column for The Manila Times and switched to the Philippine Star where I write for the arts to this day. Fortunately an inheritance enabled us to buy a camera and computer equipment. Dabbling with video documentation, Nonoy won first prize in a CCP film competition. Now he has his own video business... his life after dance.

My sisters and I often muse over our days in Maryknoll. Our parents had been talented but humble artists who could hardly afford the tuition of Maryknoll and Ateneo for their six kids. We thank them profusely for their great sacrifice. Until now, I grab the most minuscule excuse to express my pride in the Maryknoll legacy. I would never have taken a crack at those objectives without the discipline, principles and moral values that I learned from school. I think all Maryknollers are amazing because Maryknoll is an amazing school.

16th and 17th century urbanism

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

"The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children."
—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian (1906-1945)
(The quote has nothing to do with the following article. I just thought I'd ruin your morning.)

THE CAPITAL of the Philippines, strategic and commercial enclave, melting pot of different cultures, experienced various changes in its physical form during the 16th and 17th centuries. No doubt the first years' constructions consisted mainly of nipa huts and it may have looked more like a Malay settlement than a European colony. Due to dangers from fires and typhoons, there was a move to shift to a sturdier material. With time, the city began to acquire a distinct aspect.

During the administration of Santiago de Vera, the construction of buildings of stone started. This continued during the administrations of Perez Dasmariñas and Francisco Tello.

The prosperity of the inhabitants brought on by the Galleon Trade started to be reflected in the appearance of the city toward the end of the 16th century. Unfortunately the earthquakes during the 17th century forced a return to wooden constructions. Many ruined stone structures were abandoned rendering a lamentable appearance to the city.

One of the smartest things the Spanish did was to build the Parian with houses and stores of the Chinese just beside the city. While it became the source of future disturbances, it was also one of the reasons for the massive settlement of Orientals in Manila and the considerable increase of commerce and trade.

In 1583, there occurred a devastating fire that started in the monastery of San Agustin during the funeral of D. Gonzalo Ronquillo. The fire reduced the city to ashes. As a result, the acting governor, Diego Ronquillo, ordered that new houses had to be made of stone.

But it was during Santiago de Vera's administration that they discovered quarries of stone and lime, materials that could be transported easily through the Pasig River. By 1587 there were 20 houses of stone and a monastery. De Vera also rebuilt the Parian that had been destroyed by a fire in 1588 and enlarged it.

The government begun erecting the walls during Perez Dasmariñas' time. In 1595, the Parian was moved to Binondo fronting the Baluarte of San Gabriel. Intramuros as it was beginning to be known began to take on a more uniform appearance.

The last governor of the 16th century, Francisco Tello, started the construction of government buildings situated in the Plaza Mayor: the cathedral, the palace and the *cabildo*. According to Dr. Antonio de Morga, "the streets of the city are well populated with houses, most of stone and some of wood, many with tiled roofs and others of nipa, many wide and tall buildings with large stones, many windows and balconies decorated with iron grills."

The revolt of the Chinese in 1639 and the earthquake of 1645 cut short the development. At first, the government couldn't count on the rents from the Parian since the Chinese population had been decimated, but the councilmen found themselves in 1645 with an *alcaiceria* (silk market) that was beginning to be populated and the financial position of the municipal treasury began to recover. The work of reconstruction of the city took precedence over public works, a task that was difficult due to the frequency of earthquakes. It wasn't just a question of constructing buildings but demolishing others that were in a lamentably ruined state and posed a danger to life and limb to anyone traversing the streets.

As a consequence of the disasters and the frequent seismic movements, the residents had to live for a while in the surrounding areas, in improvised wooden houses, fearful of returning to a dangerous city with half-ruined stone structures. Proof of this is that the announcements by the town criers for the convocation of the city council on Feb. 6 and March 16, 1646 were done in the towns of Bagumbayan, Hermita, Dilao, San Anton, Tondo, Binondo, Quiapo and Sta. Cruz "where the inhabitants had taken up residence."

Beside the remains of stone houses, others of wood began to be constructed. Some residents even repaired their houses, constructing bedrooms of wood in the interior and living in the *entresuelos*.

In 1684, the municipal hall still hadn't been repaired. Manila still had not recovered her old splendor by the second half of the 17th century. The *cabildo,* its income cut by the reduction in the number of Sangleys, found itself with little opportunities for starting the reconstruction of Manila. On more than one occasion, it found itself unable to pay the expenses for that year. For example, the *cabildo* had to divide its scarce rental incomes in 1648 between payment of its debts and the funeral honors for Prince Baltazar Carlos and the urgent repair of the Puente Grande. (I think they call this a fiscal crisis like this little mess we're having at the moment, but at least the reason then was understandable.)

(To be continued)

(Loose translation from Inmaculada Alva Rodriguez's "Urbanismo municipal en Manila [Siglos XVI-XVII]")

* * *

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

Where I should be

YOUNG BLOOD

Ma. Agnes A. Paculdar

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

LAST June I started my seventh year of teaching college students. Having never known any other job since graduation (aside from a brief stint in a research project), I consider it normal to go through moments of deep questioning as regards the path I chose to take.

The first offer for me to teach came months before I received my college diploma. Our department chair at my dear alma mater in Diliman broached to me the idea of teaching even as I pursued graduate studies. I was too afraid to say yes. At that time, the idea of matching wits with students who were as young as I was (some were even older) from the premiere state university scared me. While helping shape the minds of our country's future leaders was a dream I held long and dear during my undergraduate years, I felt a real sense of inadequacy. I thought I had nothing significant to impart. I looked at myself and saw almost nothing that would merit any distinction between myself and the UP student sitting next to me inside an "ikot" jeepney.

One more invitation to teach and several semesters came to pass before I finally decided to take the plunge, this time due to some strong encouragement and prodding of friends in the university who believed it was time for me to stop running away from the challenge. So while most of my batch mates found their way into law school (as most political science majors are expected to), I entered the first class in my teaching career with wobbly steps, mustering just enough courage to convince my students that I was indeed there to teach and bearing the agony of seeing their faces occasionally get torn between doubt and assurance.

The beginning is always difficult, as the famous dictum says. I found this most true during my first semester of teaching. I had to spend long evenings of preparation, journeying into an endless stream of related literature, debating with myself as regards the best approach to presenting an idea, consulting my mentors, arguing with students (there were those who were unrelenting not because of their commitment to an insight, principle or idea but out of the desire to show up a neophyte in the profession). And there were moments of uncertainty.

Preparing oneself intellectually, however, paled in comparison with the psychological pressure on a first-timer who was fully aware of her responsibility to keep the tradition of critical thinking and social involvement alive among her students. There were occasional bouts with doubts, and lingering questions about whether one could truly make a difference. And aside from all this, I had to constantly assure my father that my salary was good enough to keep me alive—another difficult thing to manage.

That was years ago. Slowly, I learned to look beyond the ocean of faces I encountered inside the classroom. I discovered the sense of fulfillment that goes with looking at each student whose thought process I had stimulated with probing and sometimes bewildering questions. While I still have to keep assuring my father that my earnings are enough, I look back and remember with joy the friendships I built with my students during those first challenging years, the immeasurable reward of being welcomed by them, of knowing I had touched their lives and of being there during that difficult stage of their journey when the choices they made shaped the fundamental principles upon which they will anchor other more crucial choices later in life. It was wonderful to help guide them through their confusion and hear the angst of young people and reassure them that they would be listened to without being judged, and then to discover that I shared some of their angst and confusion, and to realize that their struggles were almost identical with and as real as mine.

Yes, there were heated debates and passionate clashes of opinions within the walls of the classroom. But once the class was over, we left all this behind, knowing that we could pick up from where we left off next time. Then I began to assume the role of a friend.

Through my students, I learned some of the most valuable lessons in life. Teaching demands deep introspection. It has taught me to recognize my own limitations and the truth that others' opinions are just as valuable as mine. It has also taught me humility, like acknowledging that I do not possess a monopoly of knowledge and insight. It helped me discover the importance of listening and striving to make sense of insights that are seemingly remote from my own established convictions, pre-conceived notions and prejudices. I have learned the hard and profound lesson of not blaming myself for the choices others make, since their lives are beyond my control and I can only be persuasive to the extent that they allow me to be.

Last but not least, I have grown to understand more intensely how much of the teacher's self goes with what he imparts without being conscious about it. This means that together with the responsibility of shaping minds the teacher has the corollary task of shaping lives. Very often, teaching brings me face to face with myself, forcing me to examine and clarify my own position on the issues of the day, to reinforce such position, to defend it passionately, to make the firm decision of transcending my personal irresoluteness, dilemma or neutrality on matters where we are called to take a stand. It requires me to examine my own values and clarify my own confusion in order to prevent my students from being led to it.

Indeed, whatever lessons I have imparted to my students after long evenings of preparation and reading cannot compare with the lessons teaching has taught me. It's just too bad that I realized this only after my first batch of students had long said goodbye to the university. I can only hope that they found peace in the paths they picked.

A few years ago, I lost sight of the shore and began teaching in another university. Now it is clear to me that I ought to continue my task. Certainly, the conditions are different. The task of imbuing social responsibility has never been more challenging. Yet I carry with me memories of my past students and the lessons and experiences I had during the formative years of my teaching career, the academic ideals laid out for me by my mentors, the examples of academic discipline as well as intellectual humility of my former colleagues in our cash-strapped university. And I hang on to the conviction that I can make a difference. All of which only confirms my belief that I am right here where I should be.

Ma. Agnes A. Paculdar, 28, used to be a teaching associate at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. She now teaches Political Thought to third year college students in another university.

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Extravagance in time of crisis is a crime

IF losing candidates are barred from occupying appointive government posts within one year after election, fair play dictates that no appointive government officials should be allowed to seek elective positions unless they resign one year before the election.

Rationale? These officials should use their time and meager government resources allotted to their offices to serve the best interests of the majority, not the interests of their prospective leaders and supporters.

Example: Many government officials are kept busy with their radio/TV programs, and newspaper columns, which are meant to project themselves, not to make them better at performing their assigned tasks.

In other words, appointive offices are just being used as stepping stones to realize political ambitions. Worse, many steal people's money to fill up their campaign chest.

There ought to be a law!

By the way, with this country admittedly being in crisis, the President should direct her men to enforce Art. 25 of the Civil Code: "Thoughtless extravagance in expenses for pleasure or display during a period of acute public want or emergency may be stopped by order of the courts at the instance of any government or private charitable institution."

—EFREN H. MERCADO,
Mercado Compound,
Mataas na Lupa, Lipa City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Messing up sexuality and motherhood

ASUNCION David-Maramba's commentary (PDI, 8/28/04) quoted Fr. Ruben Tanseco's statement that there are two moral positions in the Roman Catholic Church as far as responsible parenthood is concerned: the official papal position and the non-official, responsible, dissenting position of some laymen and clerics; and that the official position is not infallible because it is not dogma.

When I buy fish or meat in the market, I know that the weighing scales of the different vendors vary in accuracy. What one vendor claims is one kilo may actually be only 950 grams, while the other vendors' weighing scales could also give me different weights. But I know that there is an official weighing scale that gives the correct weight of my purchase.

The different beliefs and opinions inside the Church are like the market vendors' weighing scales. When it comes to faith and morals, the position of the head of the Church, the Pope, is the official weighing scale. The individual conscience is an approximate means to the truth, and it has to be adjusted accordingly as mandated ("Thou art Peter and upon this rock I build my Church") by the teaching authority or magisterium of the Church.

On the other big issue of feminism, isn't it that whenever we separate sexuality from motherhood, we all get messed up?

—LELLA M. DE JESUS,
Mary Mother of Good Counsel Parish,
Marcelo Green Village,
Parañaque City

Where that pork goes

CONTRARY to the belief of many people that the Priority Development Assistance Fund, popularly known as the pork barrel, is directly released to the congressmen and senators, the fact is they do not even get to see or touch the money.

The legislators' PDAF allocations are only assigned to them, but it is the Department of Budget and Management that releases—based on the national guidelines for implementation formulated by the same office—the funds directly to the national agencies charged with the implementation of projects.

For instance, a congressman only identifies the various projects prioritized in consultation with the local officials and constituents in his district, then sends to the DBM a list of those projects with a letter requesting the approval and release of funds for their implementation.

When the projects are ready for implementation, the DBM notifies the agencies concerned through a Special Allocation Release Order (Saro). Infrastructure projects such as rehabilitation of roads, schoolbuildings, farm-to-market roads, etc. are built through the Department of Public Works and Highways; projects regarding health services are delivered through the Department of Health; funds for medical assistance for indigent patients are released directly to the different hospitals such as the Philippine General Hospital, Philippine Heart Center, etc., and the scholarship funds to the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

—LILY M. BELAGAN,
former PAO II,
Office of Rep. Josephine Dominguez,
11th Congress

Alienated rulers, deluded subjects

KUDOS to Randy David for presenting a clear picture of our country's present situation. The INQUIRER editorials, "Arroyo's folly" and "Arroyo's rhetoric" (PDI, 9/05/04), gave a clear description of President Macapagal-Arroyo's indiscretion, while Randy David's "Dealing with failure" (PDI, 9/5/04) clearly explained how the lack of empathy among our leaders today has brought about the failure of the state.

Even the "Talk of the Town" feature on the UP economists' crisis report reflects a lack of vision among our society's elite. But that has always been our problem, only the strong and well-placed get to be heard. The solution to our problems must now be clear to everyone. But those at the helm ignore it because it doesn't jibe with their rhetoric. They really should stop denying their own mistakes. Our legislators' excuses for holding on to their pork barrel is lame.

And the citizenry? We should all discard our martyr complex. As David implied, this may have something to do with why our leaders tend to delude us.

—ERNESTO K. MAGTOTO,
Las Piñas City,
ernestomagtoto@yahoo.com

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10,000 demand peace in Quezon towns

Townsfolk ask communist rebels, gov't soldiers to leave their communities

INFANTA, Quezon—At least 10,000 residents of two northern towns of Quezon took to the streets to demand that their towns be left alone and in peace by communist guerrillas and government soldiers who had turned their communities into battlefields.

The residents of Infanta and General Nakar towns sang songs, recited prayers loudly and marched under the heat of the sun Thursday while they asked the New People's Army and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to leave their communities in peace.

The residents took to the streets following a spate of five killings in their towns in the past two weeks. The killings, the residents said, were brought about by the war between the guerrillas and the soldiers.

"We now declare our towns as a zone of peace, freedom and development. We now ask whoever is responsible for the recent (spate of) violence to respect it for the sake of the people," Infanta Mayor Grace America said.

Oca Catelo, a lay leader from the Prelature of Infanta and one of the initiators of the activity, explained that their action is "non-partisan."

"We strongly denounce violence whoever is the perpetrator," he said.

Gathering

At around 8 a.m., some 8,000 residents of Infanta, composed of high school and college students, local government and barangay officials, members of religious, civic groups, non-government organizations and concerned citizens, marched for peace around the poblacion.

All the placards and streamers, noticeably bereft with ideological slants, were all but expressions of simply wanting peace to prevail in the area.

During the same time in neighboring General Nakar town, at least 2,000 residents assembled in the town's covered basketball court and held a program punctuated with prayers for peace and mass singing of native patriotic songs.

Heavily armed policemen secured the mass mobilization in the two towns.

"My constituents are now afraid to go out of their house when it's already dark. There's an unmistakable reign of terror here," General Nakar Mayor Hernando Avellaneda, told the INQUIRER.

Myra Solleza, faculty member at the Northern Quezon Cooperative College in Infanta, brought along her seven-year-old son John to the march-rally.

"I want my children to learn the value of fighting for what is right, to stop these senseless violence around us," she said.

Victim

According to Solleza, her father whom she described as a political leader, was also murdered by members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) 12 years ago.

"The violence around us is now coming back so we have to stand up," she said.

Fr. Chat Colendres, chancellor of the Prelature of Infanta, said the killings could have been a "created scenario" to justify the presence and imminent deployment of government troops in the area.

He called on the people to remain vigilant and not be cowed by the existing violence in their midst.

In late August, Gerry Romantico, 37, and Rosalina Velasco, 63, both residents of General Nakar, were shot in the head pointblank allegedly by members of the NPA hit squad.

Velasco's killers left a note purportedly from the NPA Nicasio Corpuz Command accusing the victim of being a military informer and of also being involved in illegal fishing.

Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, expressed doubt whether the NPA rebels were really the culprit in Velasco's killing.

"For one, there is no such NPA Nicasio Corpuz Command in the area. The perpetrators were the military themselves posing as NPA to discredit our Red fighters," he said in a mobile phone interview.

Retaliation

After the murder of retired Army M/Sgt. Ferdinand Capuyan on Sept. 5 in Infanta, at least two members of leftist activist groups were also killed a day apart from each other.

Meliton Tena, a Bayan Muna coordinator, was gunned down on Sept. 7 by a group of bonnet wearing assailants.

Two days later, Antonio Falcon, a member of "Punlaan sa Nayon," a progressive cultural group in Southern Tagalog, was also shot by unidentified gunman fatally hitting him in the head.

Tena's wife, Araceli, said they were watching television when the killers fired at her husband using a gun attached with a silencer. The couple was married only three months ago.

After holding their respective programs, a delegation from the two groups met in the middle of Agus Bridge that separate the towns for the signing of a common declaration of peace and solidarity.

Ironically, at least two military trucks helped transport the delegation from Infanta, some five kilometers away from the bridge. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Davao execs oppose plan to hold new military exercises in city

DAVAO CITY—City officials expressed their opposition to the planned conduct of the joint RP-US military exercises here saying "it would only invite trouble."

Earlier, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte showed hostility toward the plan, which Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Zosimo Jesus Paredes II had announced last week.

Paredes, also executive director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), told reporters here that the RP-US Mutual Defense Board (MDB) has been conducting a series of meeting to decide on the site of next year's exercises and Davao City is being considered as one of the venues.

The other areas are General Santos, where the United States funded the construction of several projects including an international airport, and Zamboanga.

Paredes said at least 70 percent of MDB members wanted the holding of the Balikatan exercises in Mindanao to study the long-running guerrilla war on the island, and to know more about the jungle experience of Filipino troops here.

"Since 1969, we've been fighting the insurgents here, we have a long experience in jungle survival, which might help them (US) in the fight against terror," he said.

Next year's war games would involve at least 2,000 US soldiers and an equal number of their Filipino counterparts.

"It will last for three to four weeks," Paredes said. Paredes said that the MDB would meet in Hawaii this month to finalize the sites of the exercises.

He said the Balikatan training will help boost the "inter-operability" of both US and Philippine troops, which means that given their software and hardware capability, they can easily join forces in times of attacks.

Paredes said aside from enhancing the skills of Filipino soldiers, the joint military exercises also boost the equipment and war technology of the Philippine military.

He said after each exercise, US forces leave behind military equipment.

"In turn, they (the US troops) are learning from us about the jungle war in Mindanao," he said.

But Duterte told reporters that: "There is really no purpose for it here . . . It has absolutely no direct benefit to the people of Davao City . . . You will just invite trouble."

In opposing the conduct of the war games here, the city council said the scope of the military exercises does not address the more comprehensive security concerns of the city.

The resolution added that the city does not, at all, need the military exercises considering its stable peace and order situation.

"Davao City has developed through the years mainly through its own initiative and resources . . .," the resolution read. *Jeffrey Tupas, Germelina Lacorte and Anthony Allada, Mindanao Bureau*

It's 4,000 percent hike in court fees

BAGUIO CITY—Contrasting political colors converged at the Supreme Court summer compound here on Friday as militants, lawyers and human rights advocates protested increases in court docket fees reportedly to pay for the legislated allowances of justices.

Administrative Matter 04-2-04-SC, the latest Supreme Court circular, raises docket fees from a low of 1,000 percent and to a high of 4,000 percent.

Consumer advocates of the activist Tongtongan ti Umili here said the docket fee increases made justice inaccessible to the poor.

"Adding salt to injury is a circular provision that makes litigants pay when they seek a review of a court-issued ruling," said Cesar Oracion, dean of the Saint Louis University law school.

"This (circular makes the act of seeking justice) a double jeopardy for the poor," he said.

Oracion and Councilor Daniel Fariñas, law dean of the University of Baguio, led the rally of some 50 law students and members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines at the SC Compound here to dramatize that the recent fee increases were linked to a controversy involving the Judiciary Development Fund.

The compound houses three cottages, which were built using the JDF.

Republic Act 9227, which grants special allowances to justices of Supreme Court and Court of Appeals and judges of regional trial courts, indicates that the JDF must be tapped for the incentive. But should the JDF become insufficient, the law allows the courts to dip into court fees to pay for these.

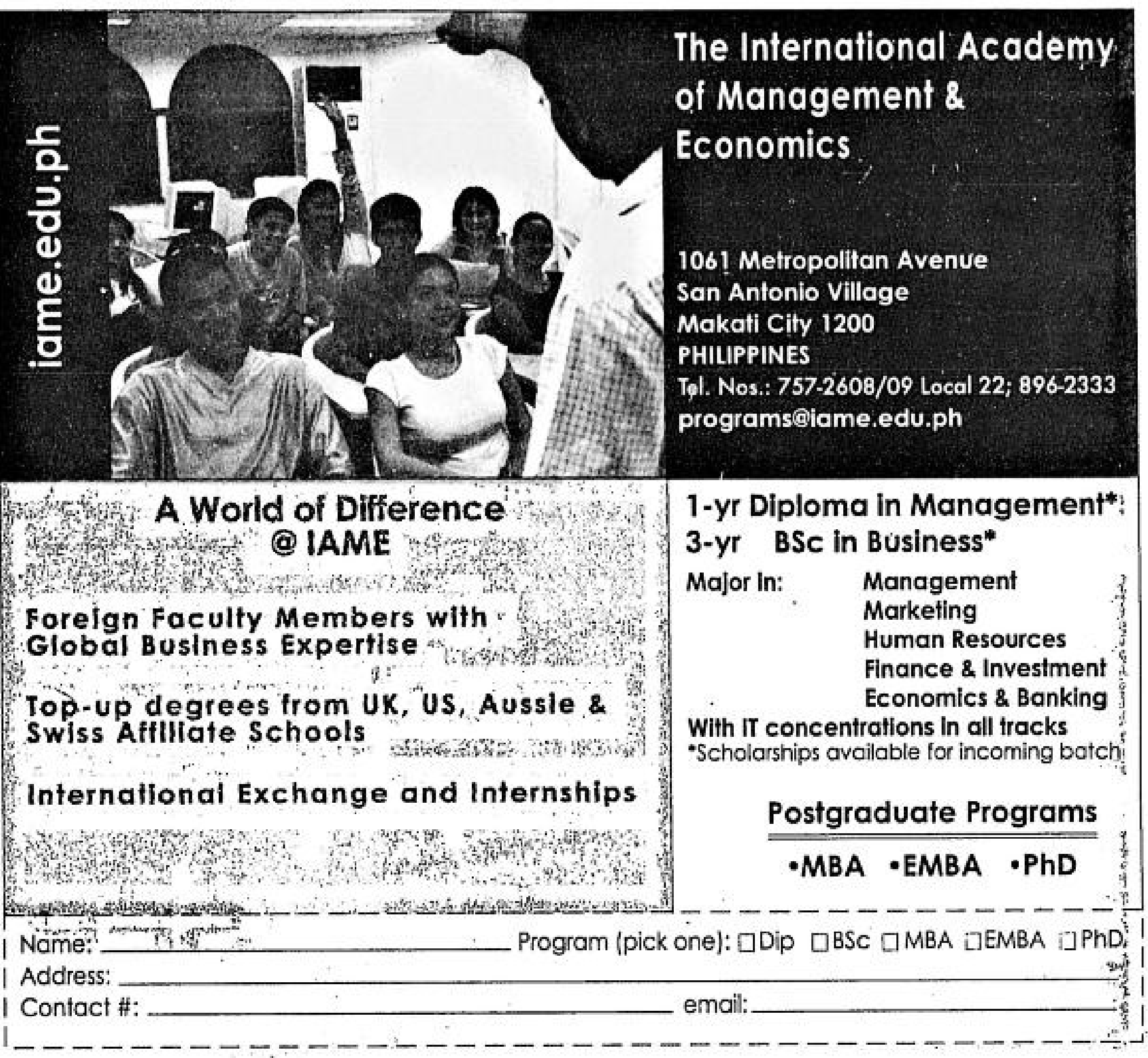
Lawyer Franklin Calpito carried a political caricature which ridiculed the justices for milking litigants to earn their bonuses. *Vincent Cabreza and Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Villages' group backs plan on 'Portagas'

THE LIGA ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas, a 42,000-strong organization of barangays, has thrown its support behind a program designed to guarantee a steady supply of low-cost, high quality fuel to the local transportation sector.

The program, called "Kapakanan ng mga Tsuper ng Transportasyon sa Kabuhayan," entitles Filipino transport cooperatives to derive supplementary income and benefits for its members through a portable gasoline station, which is the Philippines' and probably the world's first.

The facility, called Portagas, is an innovative concept from Filoil, the major proponent of the program. The vision is to have one Portagas station in every district nationwide.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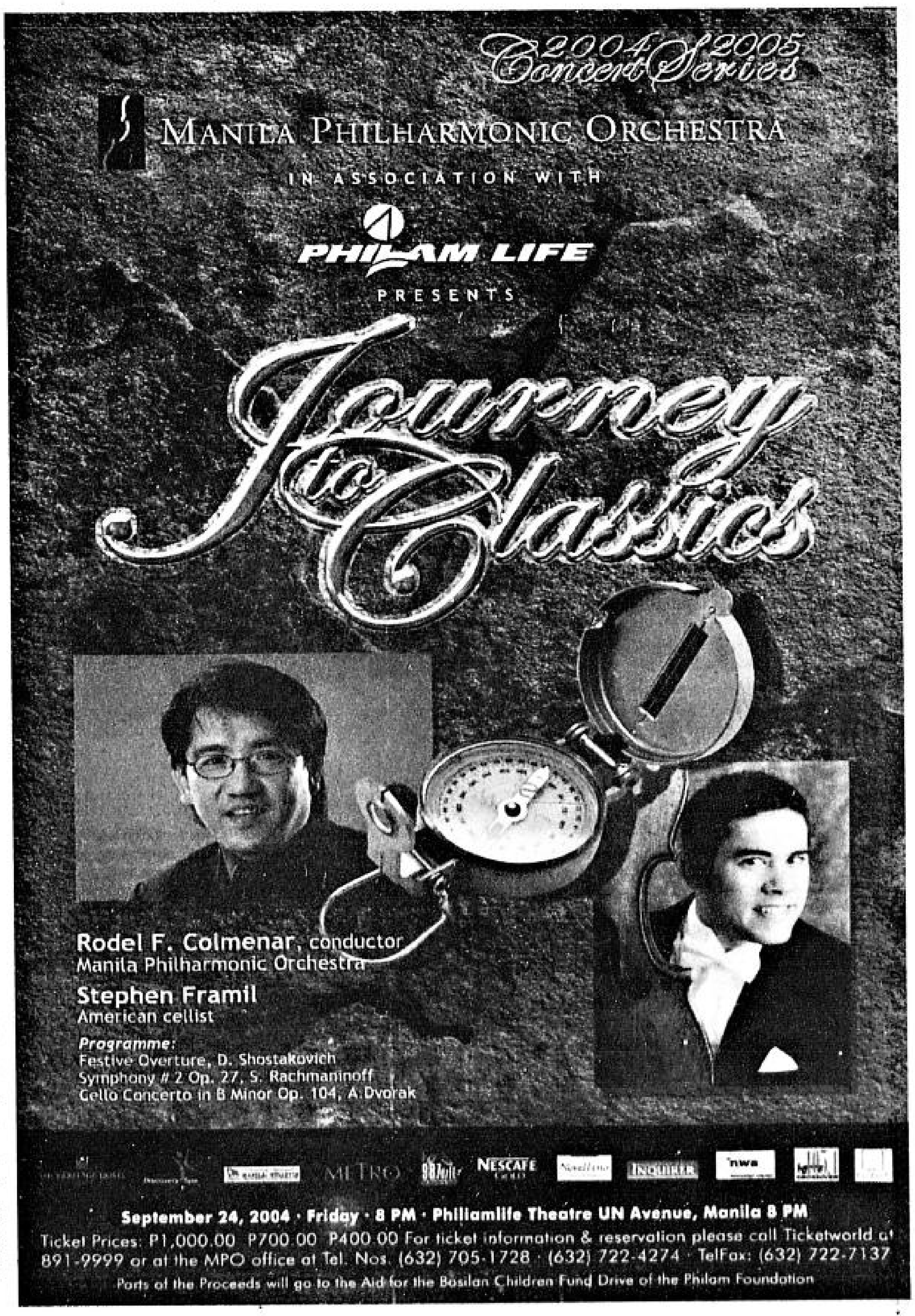
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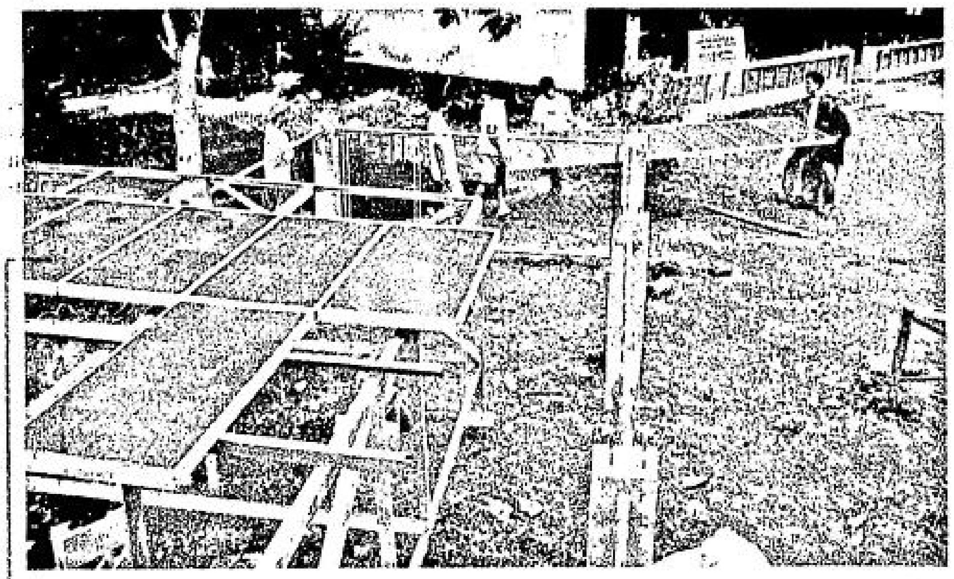

WORKERS put together the solar panels for the Internet café on Cabilao Island off Loon town in Bohol. Solar power would keep computers working despite limited supply of electricity on the island. PHOTO BY JENS FUNK

Island hosts 1st 'Net café powered by sun

By Roy Lu
Cabilao Island, Bohol

IN THE Philippines, especially in areas outside urban centers, people are not really excited about highways. The roads are usually overpriced and substandard, and take forever to build.

But on Cabilao Island, that is exactly what residents and visitors are excited about these days. Not about the election-inspired road that is still under construction, but a highway that is broader and cheaper, and connects directly to the whole world at the click of a button, that will officially open today.

Cabilao, a 4-square-kilometer islet off Loon town in Bohol with about 3,500 people, is already known worldwide. In the international dive circuit, it counts as among the dive jewels of the Philippines' underwater crown.

Today, it will be noted as the first island in the country to have a solar-powered Internet café—sans the coffee, for now—and hooked into the Internet by satellite.

While solar power is not entirely new to the island (some people have solar power devices but mostly for home appliances), it will be the first time that another appliance—to most of the world, at least—will be within the reach of ordinary residents.

For tourists, resort operators and islanders, many of whom have relatives abroad, mostly sailors, this is welcome news.

Joint project

The computer laboratory and Internet café is located at the Cabilao National High School, which has some 600 students. It is a joint project of the German Development Service (DED), Center for Industrial Technology and Enterprise (CITE), and the municipality of Loon.

Funding and technical assistance were provided by the German Development Agency for Technical Cooperation-German Appropriate Technology Ecoefficiency Program (GTZ-GATE).

When he was approached by the GTZ through Jens Funk, DED's IT consultant and project coordinator, in January, Mayor Yul Lopez was only too happy that his municipality was selected as site for the project.

"We've had computer donations from our congressman before, but they [units] were underutilized, if they were used at all, because power here is available only between 6 p.m. and till midnight," Lopez said.

Mario Garcia, the school principal, pointed out, however, that only one unit had been donated but was never used. "It will now finally be used," he added, "bringing the total computer units available to six."

The three resort operators on the island, including Franz Baumann of Polaris and tourism council representative in the project's management committee, supported the project as their clients would be among the main beneficiaries.

"The presence of these resorts was one determining factor for this project," said Funk. "The tourists will contribute much to the project's sustainability, as this will make the resorts attractive."

Charge for the use of computers will be pegged at an affordable rate of P20 per hour for the locals and P100 for tourists. The latter will have access only after school hours since the facility is mainly used for the computer literacy courses of third and fourth year students. The same course will be offered to adult residents later.

Catalyst

The project cost P1.7 million—with 28,400 euros from GTZ for solar panels, batteries, inverters, computers and the satellite on-line connection for one year and P200,000 from the local government for the infrastructure.

It offers students and residents greater, easier and faster contact with the rest of the world. Maybe not through the Internet all the time, but through the more familiar and accessible mobile phones whose batteries can now be charged even during daytime.

STUDENTS of the Cabilao National High School in Bohol try their hands at surfing the Internet for the first time at the school's solar-powered Internet café, the first of its kind in the country. PHOTO BY JENS FUNK

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RP women fall prey to white slavery in Malaysian state

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Negros officials have sought the help of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) and Negros congressmen to rescue four Negrense women allegedly forced into prostitution in Sabah, Malaysia.

The four women forced into white slavery in Sabah, are from the towns of Hinigaran, Himamaylan, Cauayan and Candoni, according to Rep. Ignacio Arroyo (Negros Occ., 5th District).

Arroyo said the plight of the Negrense women, who came from the towns under his district, was brought to his attention by Negros Occidental Vice Gov. Isidro Zayco.

He said he already asked Owwa's Marianito Roque to look into the plight of the four.

Zayco, on the other hand, said he had also asked for the help of former Rep. Apolinario Lozada, who hosts the "OFW Hotline" show aired over the ANC cable channel every Saturday evening.

Lozada said he will meet with the Malaysian ambassador to the Philippines to seek his help on the plight of the four Negrenses.

Zayco said he was alerted by the women's plight through a text message sent to him by one of the women.

The message said: "Vice gub, *napeke kami sang* agent *namon, ginabaligya kami sa kasa diri sa* Malaysia (vice governor, we were fooled by our agent, we are being sold at a prostitution house here in Malaysia)."

She also told him that they could not escape because the people who had custody of them hid them.

The same woman who had sought Zayco's help had also informed Radyo Agong of her plight. The woman said their address in Malaysia was VIP Coconut and Karaoke Lodge in Mile 4 Jalan Labok, Sabah.

Apparently it was not the first time that Filipino women had been brought to Malaysia and forced into prostitution.

A 24-year-old woman from La Castellana suffered the same plight in Malaysia and narrated her tale in an affidavit she executed before the DSWD.

Foreign ownership way to revive mining industry, says mine exec

By Dennis Jay Santos
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—A ranking mining executive said the Philippines should allow foreign ownership of mining companies.

The Supreme Court has already ruled that foreign investors could not own companies exploiting the country's mineral resources.

Industry players had frowned at the decision while the government had lodged an appeal.

Benjamin Philip Romualdez, president and chief executive officer of Benguet Corp., said it is high time the government help the mining industry.

He said the mining industry could prove to be the country's life boat in the midst of the worsening fiscal crisis.

Romualdez told reporters here on Thursday that the Philippines is rich in natural resources, with Mindanao ranking third in the list of the world's largest gold producers, but this advantage had not been exploited.

Despite the huge potential in mining, Romualdez said local companies could not move because initial investment to start up a company would need at least $7 billion.

Romualdez, also president of the Chamber of Mines, said the industry was happy that President Macapagal-Arroyo was supportive of the mining industry's clamor for foreign ownership of mining companies.

"President Arroyo has been listening. She strongly endorses the mining operation in Mindanao," he said.

Romualdez said the Mindanao Business Council (MBC) also recognized the importance of mining and that it supports the government's petition against the SC decision barring foreign ownership of mining companies.

Local execs' group ready for war on IRA

THE UNION of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), the umbrella organization of governors, vice governors, board members, city mayors, municipal mayors, vice mayors, councilors, barangay captains and SK chairmen, adopted yesterday a resolution strongly opposing any move in Congress to cut the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) to ease the budget deficit.

In a statement, Ulap Chair Gov. Erico Aumentado of Bohol said the IRA "should not be cut "because it is the legal and moral share of local government units from the earnings of government."

Aumentado said the IRA is the "lifeblood" of LGUs in the delivery of basic services to the people.

He said the operations of LGUs would be paralyzed if the IRA is cut or its release is suspended.

On a motion of Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, Ulap adopted a resolution commending President Macapagal-Arroyo for not supporting a move by Rep. Joey Salceda to cut the IRA.

Evardone, in the same statement, said Ms Arroyo showed "she "was sensitive to the needs of LGUs" and asked the President not to be swayed by recommendations from some congressmen who are insensitive to the plight of local governments.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who was guest of Ulap, said any move to reduce or suspend the release of IRA would be illegal and immoral.

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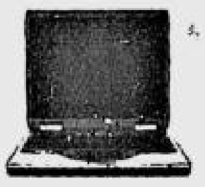

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The killings Baguio would rather forget

From page A1

daughter Clodine in Australia were a big story for Baguio residents.

After all, the Gonzaleses were well known in this city before they migrated to Australia.

But when their son Sef was accused of the murders a year later, the loud interest turned into polite whispers.

Baguio officials, lawyers and residents said there was good reason the three life sentences meted out on Sef by a New South Wales court did not raise too much of a stir in the city.

Quake aftermath

"The truth is everyone knew Teddy and his (Baguio-based) parents, but nobody knew Sef. I was Teddy's grade school classmate, but I never met the son," said Carlo Honorio Estepa, former vice president for Luzon of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"I only know that Teddy was very disturbed during (the July 1990 earthquake) when a wall of their house toppled and almost crushed Clodine. That was the reason they migrated to Sydney," he said.

Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan, who was ending his three terms as Baguio mayor in July 2001, the month when the murders occurred, could still remember his emotions when he heard about the killings.

"I was packing my things when I heard the news (about the Gonzales massacre). Like everyone else, we were very angry because the news said it was (a hate crime)," Domogan said.

"But when Sef was arrested, we all felt the family's shock, and then we realized they also felt shame. (Since then), Sef was no longer mentioned in Baguio."

Closing the book

Annie Gonzales-Tesoro, Securities and Exchange Commission regional director and sister of Teddy, said the convictions should end the unwanted public interest in their family.

"We don't want Baguio to hear anymore what we feel," Tesoro told the INQUIRER. "It should end here."

Throughout Sef's trial, she had always asked reporters to respect the family's privacy—and they always obliged.

Domogan said the murders had shaken the walls of conservatism around Baguio, a city built by the American colonial government in 1909.

Stories about a racist angle in the Gonzales murders resonated strongly among Baguio's communities, he said.

Who is to blame?

In the end, Domogan said, it was Baguio's conservatism which convinced residents to "simply forget the murders happened."

"The bigger shock to us was when Sef, the son of a prominent family, was accused of the murders," he said. "Baguio residents have always been very good parents."

"I don't want to shift blame to Australia, but we in Baguio realized that Sef might have changed when his family migrated," Domogan added. "There must be something about (Sydney's culture of) independence which (translates) into bad adolescent behavior. I have a relative who reacts badly to parental admonition in the United States."

Domogan said both the Gonzales and Claridades families had become reclusive because of the tragedy.

"They never asked us for help. The city government's only public intervention was to lobby for a swift investigation when news claimed that it was a racist attack on a Filipino family," he said.

3 life terms for Sef Gonzales

From page A1

shown no remorse.

He described the killing spree as heinous.

The judge said there was no evidence mental illness played a part in the murders.

"I consider that the murders showed features of very great heinousness and that there are no facts mitigating the objective seriousness of the murders and hence the murders fall within the worst category of cases of murder at common law," James said.

"(He) has not demonstrated any insight into the enormity of the offenses he has committed or any acceptance of responsibility...," the judge added.

Relatives in tears

Gonzales maintained his innocence throughout his trial.

The Gonzaleses were from Baguio City. A lawyer and devout Catholic, Teddy Gonzales brought his family to Australia in 1991, and set up a successful legal practice specializing in immigration matters.

Surviving members of the Gonzales family wept when the sentence was handed down, but Gonzales showed very little emotion.

He will serve the sentences concurrently, but media in Sydney reported he is unlikely ever to be released due to the severity of his crimes.

Outside the court, family members said they were relieved their ordeal was finally over.

"It's actually a very sad day because we love Sef very much but I'm just glad it's over as well," his aunt Emily Luna said. "We will always love him."

Poison failed

The killings happened at the family home in a wealthy district of Sydney.

During a six-week trial, prosecutors told the court Gonzales resented his parents' strict discipline and their disapproval of his girlfriend, and he feared he would be disinherited.

They said Gonzales tried to poison his family two weeks before the murders with lethal plant seeds ordered over the Internet.

When the plan failed, he stabbed his mother, father and sister to death over a three-hour period in the family home, lying in wait through the evening as each returned home separately, prosecutors said.

Police said Gonzales claimed he had seen an intruder fleeing his home but a forensic search found no trace of a trail.

'Angry amateur'

They also said that, to divert attention from himself, Gonzales daubed racist graffiti—saying "f--- Asians"—on the kitchen wall in spray paint, traces of which were found on his jumper.

When police seized Gonzales' computer they had found references to Internet sites, such as "how to kill" and "white man killer." There was also a container of poison in his bedroom.

Gonzales pleaded not guilty, initially claiming he was dining with friends then claiming he was at a brothel at the time of the murders.

However, investigators found the prostitute he claimed to be with was not working on the day in question.

Prosecutors said Gonzales first clubbed his sister over the head with a baseball bat, then strangled and stabbed her. He then stabbed to death his father and mother one at a time as they arrived home from work.

Prosecutors described the crime as "a slaughter by an angry amateur." *AP and AFP*

AT A GLANCE

Chronology of murder

February 2001—Sef Gonzales surfs the Internet for poisonous plants, and orders lethal seeds. Sef shells them and mixes them with warm water. He keeps the prepared potion in a film canister under his bedside table. He types a letter to a major food company: "Three of your products have been poisoned. By now they are on supermarket shelves. This is what you get for treating employees like garbage. Good luck finding infected cans before someone dies. Go to hell!!!"

July 2, 2001—The letter arrives. Sef also writes letters to the Federal Police and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service. Traces of the letters will be later found on his laptop, and his fingerprint lifted from one of the envelopes.

July 3, 2001—Sef's mother suffers from "fever, severe abdominal pain and bloody diarrhea" and is brought to Sydney Adventist Hospital. Sef also feigns a minor stomach upset, telling people that there might have been something in the tap water at a restaurant in which the family had dined.

July 5, 2001—After his mother recovers and returns home, investigation reveals that Sef tried to cancel one of his orders for seeds having realized he could no longer continue with the poisoning plan. He likely threw the remaining seeds into the backyard. Three years later a poisonous plant is discovered growing there.

July 10, 2001—Teddy, 46, Mary Loiva, 43, and 18-year-old Clodine are knifed to death in the family's North Ryde home. It is Sef who finds them. He tells police that he had been to a diner with a friend.

July 13, 2001—Sef makes a public appeal for information about the murders, saying he has lost three of the four corners of his world.

July 20, 2001—Sef gives a eulogy to his father at the slain family's funeral service.

Dec. 20, 2001—Strike Force Tawas tells Sef they don't believe his story.

June 13, 2002—Sef is arrested at his unit at the high-end Bentleigh Apartments on Katherine Street in Chatswood district near Sydney.

June 13, 2002—He is charged with three counts of murder. He pleads not guilty to all counts, but does not apply for bail.

May 8, 2003—Sef launches a bid to gain control of his multimillion-dollar inheritance to pay his legal bills. His lawyers appear before the New South Wales Supreme Court seeking the accused murderer's access to his family's fortune in Australia and the Philippines believed to be around A$10 million (US$6.35 million).

May 30, 2003—Hearing is conducted to Sef's bid to gain access to his multimillion inheritance. The parties debate Sef's entitlement to the inheritance despite his being charged with his family's murder.

June 12, 2003—The court refuses him access to his family's estate. The court is told the estate in Australia is worth $780,000 ($1.2 million Australian dollars) and that the family also held considerable assets in the Philippines

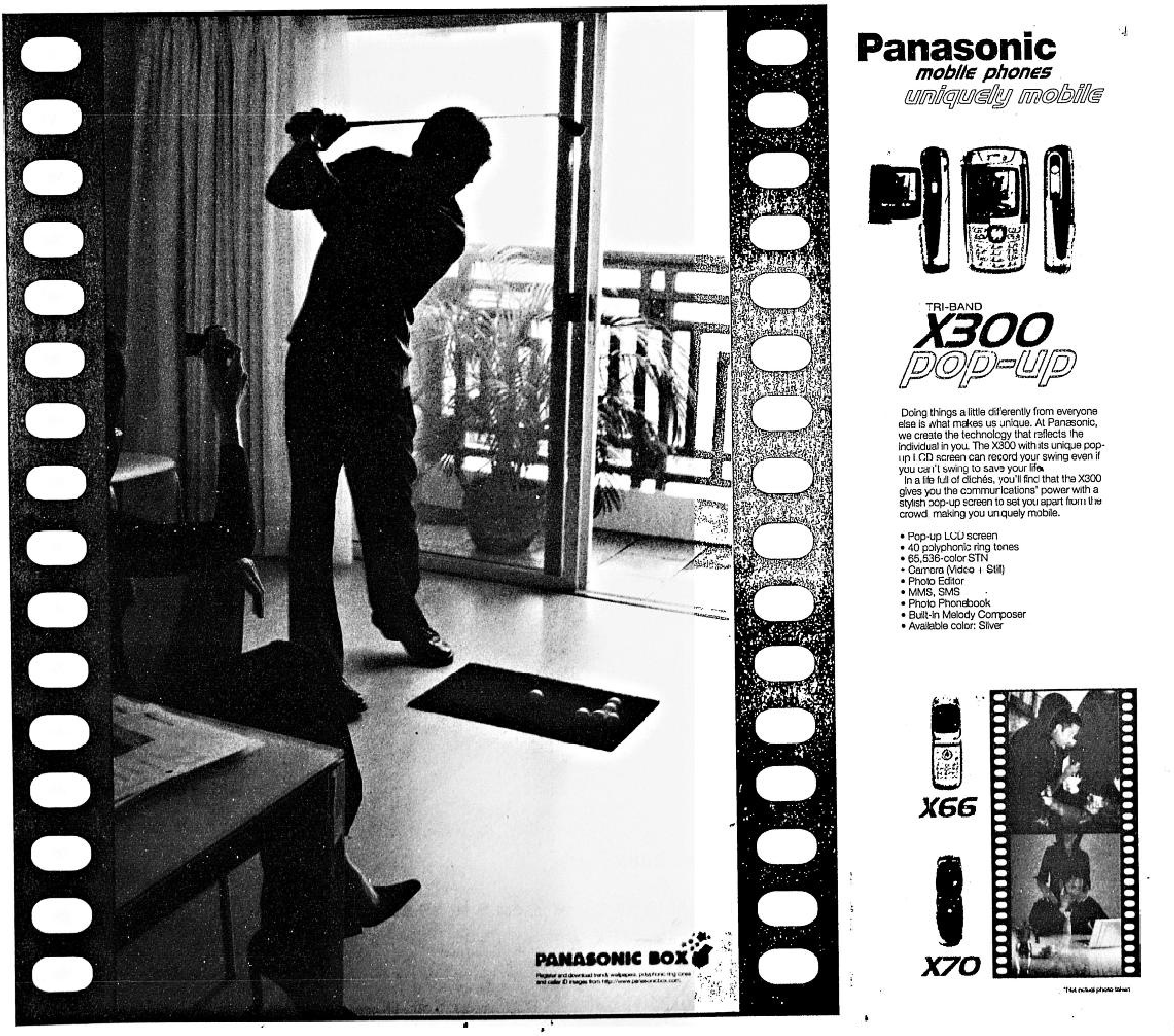
Aug. 26, 2003—Magistrate Deborah Sweeney say prosecutors have presented strong enough evidence during a four-day hearing to merit a trial.

April 5, 2004—Prosecutor says the Filipino-Australian law student stabbed his wealthy father, mother and sister to death because he feared they would disown him over his choice of girlfriend and his bad grades.

May 20, 2004—Sef is found guilty of murdering his parents and his 18-year-old sister. Prosecutors say Gonzales murdered his family to get his hands on a 1.5 million Australian dollar US$1 million) inheritance.

Aug. 27, 2004—Prosecutors demand three life sentences for Sef for the "callous" and "premeditated" slayings.

Sept. 17, 2004—Sef Gonzales is sentenced to three life terms. ***PDI Research***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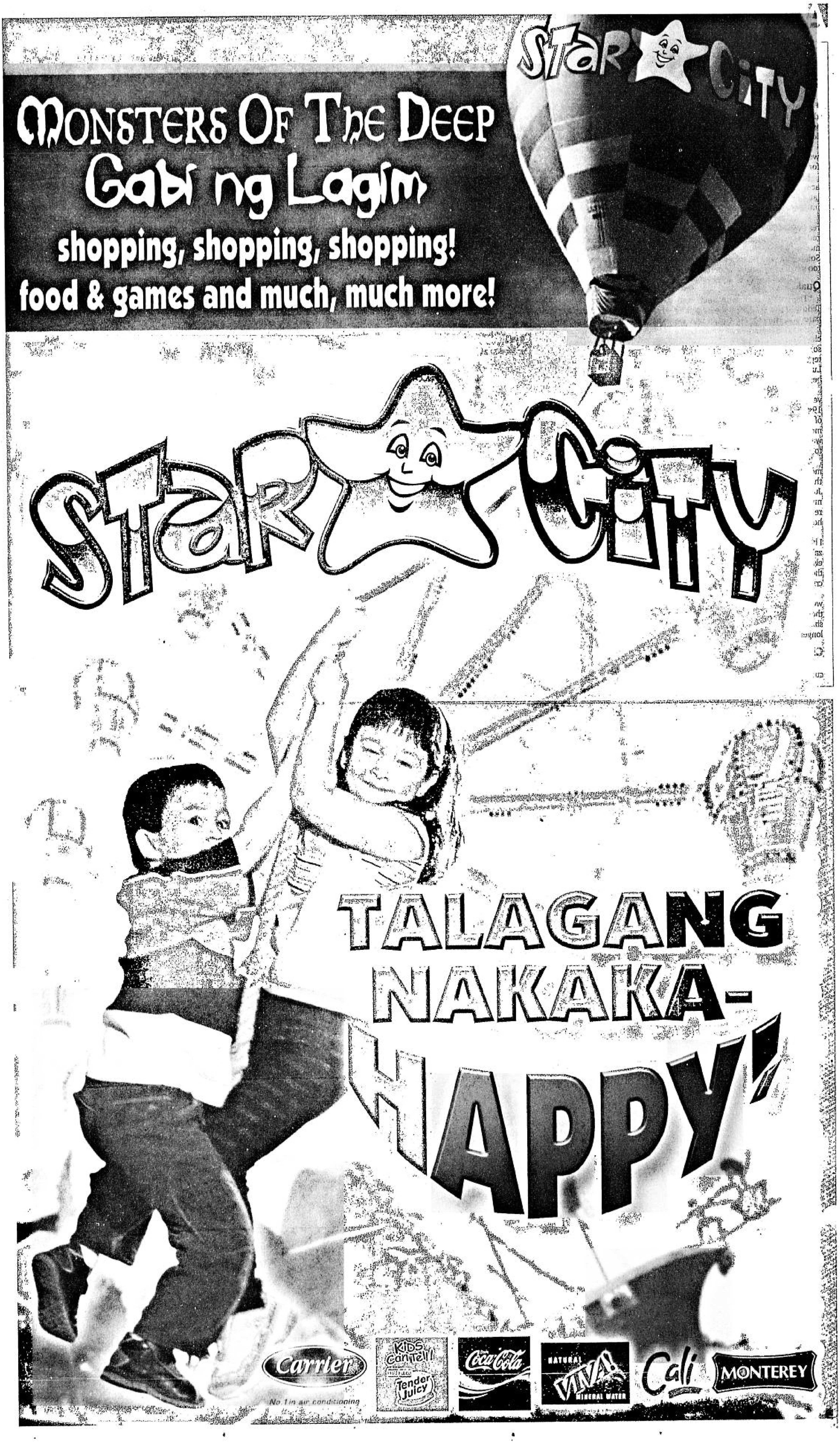
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Usec was sacked–GMA

From page A1

The President only smiled when asked if the two officials were told to resign and did not quit voluntarily, as Ferrer had claimed in his case. She could not even mention Ferrer by name.

"Let's not talk about any specific person, because we are streamlining," she said. "We are reorganizing the government and I thank those who have returned to the private sector for having served the government."

No replacement

Ms Arroyo said she had no plan to replace Ferrer.

"Actually, with finance we don't need to replace a particular undersecretary. You can give his job to another undersecretary," she said.

As for Figueroa, who had complained of the low pay she was getting in the government, Ms Arroyo said she had found a replacement whose name she could not recall.

"Actually, early on in my new administration I was already told that she (Figueroa) was going to resign. A notice was given and the recommendation was to accept the resignation," the President said.

She also said Figueroa's resignation did not have much of an effect on the government's finances and borrowings.

"Actually, there's no need for a transition because [Undersecretary] Eric Recto is the chair of the auction committee. [Figueroa's] replacement can come in tomorrow because the policy decisions are done at the level of Eric Recto," she said.

Unsympathetic

In his statement, Bunye said Ferrer's resignation was "an act of *delicadeza* that must be seen in a positive light."

"In the end, the important thing is that the truth prevails and people are judged accordingly," Bunye said.

But reactions were unsympathetic.

According to Alberto Salanga, former executive director of the One-Stop Shop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center (OSS), Ferrer's resignation "does not free him of responsibility or complicity in the bungling of the tax credit scam cases."

"His resignation should pave the way for an immediate and impartial investigation of his conduct as SPTF 156 co-chair and a full and independent financial and performance audit of [the task force]," Salanga said in a statement.

In a separate statement, Wilson Gamboa, lead lawyer of the OSS employees complaining of harassment by the task force, scoffed at Ferrer's claim that he had angered crime syndicates because of the filing of 1,023 criminal cases against finance officials.

"The truth of the matter was that he did not deliver what was expected of him," Gamboa said, adding:

"It was a zero performance."

Wave of resignations

As finance undersecretary, Ferrer was also in charge of the government's borrowings. But he denied that his resignation was prompted by policy differences with other officials.

Ferrer's resignation came after Figueroa quit to return to the private sector. National Power Corp. president Roger Murga has also resigned to enjoy his retirement.

The wave of resignations came while the government continues to grapple with a huge budget deficit brought about by piling debts, a large chunk of which was incurred by government-owned and -controlled corporations.

Sturdy laptop takes brunt of GMA temper

From page A1

inefficiency.

But has the President actually thrown a laptop?

Laptop thrown a couple of times

Yesterday during the luncheon she hosted for the Malacañang Press Corps, President Macapagal-Arroyo laughingly admitted that she had thrown her laptop a couple of times, not at anyone in particular and usually out of frustration.

She was reading portions of her 130-page Medium Term Development Plan from a sleek, black Toshiba laptop, when a reporter asked if this was the same computer she reportedly threw in a moment of job-related irritation.

"Yes, this is the one," Ms Arroyo said, amused. "I once threw this when we were on a plane and it still runs."

She showed reporters gathered at the State Dining Room how it happened.

Mad about something

She closed her MTDP file, turned off the computer, and slammed it shut. She pretended to scold her staff: "*Kasi naman sinabi ko na tapos iba pa ang gagawin* (I told them what to do, but they did not follow my instructions)!"

She lifted the laptop a few inches and then banged it on the table. She did this twice.

"I was not mad at the computer; I was mad about something [else]," she said.

Environment Secretary Mike Defensor, who was then Ms Arroyo's campaign spokesperson, was on the plane with her when it happened.

"She was furious because a speech had not been prepared [as she instructed it to be]. *Nagwawala siya* [She lost it]," he said. They were flying from Pangasinan to Cagayan de Oro sometime during the presidential campaign.

Ms Arroyo also started shouting at Defensor, telling him not to make her campaign schedule so hectic.

After the President threw the laptop, she started to cool down.

Defensor suggested that she buy a new laptop.

Ms Arroyo agreed, noting that the laptop battery was always on the blink.

Image model

"No Ma'am, the laptop may be seriously broken," he said. Apparently, it was not the first time the laptop had been thrown.

Defensor also suggested that the President could be an "image model" for the tough laptop.

"He (Defensor) said I should be a laptop model. Ha ha ha!" Ms Arroyo said, laughing.

Press Undersecretary Isabel de Leon swears that the President considers her laptop indispensable.

"All her speeches, her masterplan, everything is in that laptop," De Leon said.

Aside from the laptop, the President has been known to take off her eyeglasses and throw them when she gets irritated with officials who cannot comply with her directives. She has accidentally sat on them as well.

Two pairs from Yap

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap recently gave her two pairs of sturdy and rimless trendy eyeglasses.

Ms Arroyo's old pair had apparently cracked from all that abuse.

There was also talk that she once threw a sandwich at a Cabinet official during a meeting.

Reporters who used to cover Ms Arroyo when she was a senator said she would throw documents at her staff when they could not give her what she needed.

No qualms

The President has no qualms about publicly scolding officials in front of TV cameras, whenever their performance falls short of her expectations.

However, there was no trace of that temper yesterday when she hosted lunch for newspaper, TV and radio reporters covering the Palace.

Ms Arroyo earlier had dinner with the government-owned and controlled corporations heads and officials at the Palace, during which she served a "Russian dinner" of one piece of chicken and vegetables on "recyclable plastic" plates and utensils.

Monogrammed silverware

In contrast, Palace reporters ate on monogrammed silverware, although the menu remained simple: soup, fish fillet with rice and steamed vegetables, fruit salad and tea.

She said she wanted to "save" the government P100 billion in expenditures by serving simple meals served on plastic plates during large Palace gatherings.

A reporter asked if this included the vin d' honneurs for the diplomatic corps. Was the President prepared to make a toast with foreign envoys on plastic cups?

The President again laughed and shook her head.

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Sorry, wrong number

By Tina G. Santos

QUEZON City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte wants the Philippine Long Distance Telephone company to disconnect immediately the International Direct Dialing service from all city hall offices.

Belmonte said this is not only part of the austerity measures being implemented in the city, but was also triggered by his discovery that a single telephone line was billed a total of P896,960.20 for one month.

Wrong billing

The Administrative Management Office had been ordered by the mayor to conduct an inventory of city hall's telephone and power usage to find ways to reduce expenses.

The inventory included the checking of illegal connections common in city facilities like health centers in areas where informal settlers could easily tap into its power line.

On one occasion, huge bills had been charged to the mayor's office when he had been on leave. The inventory also led to the discovery that city hall was billed for the use of 22,000 streetlights when only about 11,000 were functioning.

Corvera burial

VETERAN journalist Alberto K. Corvera will be interred this afternoon at the South Cemetery in Makati City.

Corvera, 67, was given a fitting tribute last night at the National Press Club of which he was a lifetime member.

Ferry revival on Pasig mulled

FLYING HIGH. Movie stunt men show off their skills in a practice session at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City. RUDY ESPERAS

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE REVIVAL of the ferry service on the Pasig River would be a great help in decongesting Metro Manila's traffic-choked roads, according to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

MMDA Chair and Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) Co-Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday said the PRRC and the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) held a public hearing last week to get the views of the water service industry on the possible revival of the ferry service.

"The ferry service answers the need for an alternate mode of transport to augment and ease Metro Manila's road transport system," Fernando said.

Odor, debris problems

Magsaysay Lines and Starcraft Ferry Corp., former operators of the Pasig ferry line, ceased operations because of the river's foul odor and dirty waters, he added.

"The floating debris prevented the ferry's propellers from functioning properly," Fernando said, adding that the foul smell also discouraged commuters from riding the boats.

Starcraft also encountered financial and management problems, he added.

Starcraft, which was put up in 1996 in line with President Fidel Ramos' administration's efforts to resurrect the Pasig River's lost glory, ferried around 3,000 to 5,000 passengers daily.

But the MMDA chair said the PRRC's continuous efforts to clean up Pasig River had improved its water quality.

Fernando said the agency and the local government units have since removed 30 percent of the garbage recovered from the river.

He also said that the continuous improvements included the construction of linear parks on the riverbanks.

"The former operators' past experiences could help a lot in order to ensure the success of the new venture," Fernando said.

He added: "Whatever problems encountered before could be averted especially with the concerted efforts of the national and local governments, the PRRC and various non-governmental organizations, to revive the Pasig River."

Fernando also said that the service could also be extended to the coastal towns near Manila Bay, Laguna de Bay, and the Marikina River.

MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna said they would coordinate with the Department of Transportation and Communication in putting up jeepney stops near the terminals for the passengers' convenience.

Before it ceased operations, Starcraft had 13 primary stations located at Farola, Fort Santiago, Jones Bridge/Escolta, Hulo in Mandaluyong, Pasig High School, Bambang (Pasig), Taguig, Rosario (Pasig), Lambingan Bridge (Sta. Ana), Guadalupe, Muntinlupa and Marcos Bridge.

Viable alternative

A trip from Pasig to Escolta only took 35 minutes, providing commuters a viable alternative to road transport, without traffic and pollution problems encountered by regular bus and jeepney passengers.

Fares were set at P20 for a one-way trip along the route onboard the 108-seater ferry boat.

Homeless rounded up

By Tarra V. Quismundo

FROM places they considered their homes close to Manila's bay area, 650 homeless persons were rescued to be returned to their homes or placed in institutions.

They were plucked from sidewalks, streets, parks and main roads in the Ermita and Malate districts, in a rescue operation of the Manila Department of Social Welfare (MDSW).

Between late night Thursday until daybreak on Friday, the MDSW took custody of street dwellers, beggars and destitutes, including infants, toddlers, teenagers and old men and women, according to MDSW chief Jose Baranda.

The MDSW conducted the six-hour sweep from Plaza Lawton and Rajah Sulayman Park, the sidewalks of Pedro Gil and Padre Faura Streets, the Roxas Boulevard Baywalk, portions of Taft Avenue and T.M. Kalaw Street.

Barangay chairs from the two districts, policemen from the Ermita and Malate stations, the City Hall detachment of the WPD Special Operations Group and the National Parks Development Office, that maintains Rizal Park, took part in the operation, as part of the three-month-old Oplan Lingap Alaga program of the MDSW.

Those rounded up were brought to the MDSW Reception and Action Center on Arroceros Street for identification purposes.

The MDSW would then determine where they would be brought later.

Baranda said that those from Manila would be taken back to their families or brought to Boys Town, in the case of male youngsters.

Those from other Metro Manila cities would be turned over to the local social welfare departments in their cities, while those from provinces or cities outside Metro Manila would be transported to the Jose Fabella Center in Mandaluyong run by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Substandard LPG tanks destroyed

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A TOTAL of 162 substandard liquefied petroleum gas cylinders previously seized during random inspections in Metro Manila were destroyed yesterday as part of a sustained drive against unscrupulous LPG retailers.

Trade Undersecretary Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. also said the Department of Trade and Industry's drive would be extended to the Bicol region after a commitment to cooperate was made by the Albay Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The consumer group Albay Watch also joined the effort.

The 162 tanks were part of a 210-tank delivery seized earlier this month from nine LPG retailers.

Working with the DTI's special monitoring team were the Department of Energy and LPG Industry Association that conducted random checks in Taguig, Sampaloc and Sta. Cruz in Manila last Sept. 2-3.

The cylinders were confiscated because they did not have the required markings that prove these had undergone quality tests and passed product standards.

Also cited during the inspections were six LPG retailers selling under filled cylinders.

Under a Department of Energy circular, "a shortage of more than (300 grams) per cylinder shall constitute an act of under filling."

Cristobal said suppliers and retailers were jointly liable for a fine of P5,000 or a year in jail or both for those who sold cylinders where the net content was less than indicated on the container, package, label or as advertised.

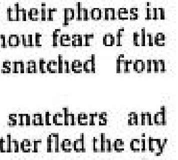
Some of the LPG tanks inspected were found to be under filled by as much as 1.7 kilograms, he said.

This meant retailers were cheating consumers by at least P65 per tank, Cristobal said.

No cell phone snatchings in Davao City

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



CELL PHONE theft or robbery is very common in Metro Manila. Every single day scores of mobile phones are stolen or taken by force in offices, in the streets, on public vehicles.

I hate to say, "I told you so" but I've been urging the police to go hard on cell phone robbers and stores that sell stolen mobile phones.

The police know which stores sell stolen cell phones in Metro Manila. These stores are at the Virra Mall in Greenhills, San Juan, at the Arranque Market in Manila, on Recto Avenue and in Divisoria in Manila.

But why are the police going after cell phone thieves and robbers and their fences only now? Because of the series of articles on the rampant incidence of cell phone theft and robbery on the INQUIRER front page.

For weeks, I've been yapping against the rampant theft and robbery of cell phones and stores that sold stolen mobile phones, but the police did not budge. Until the INQUIRER special report came.

* * *

In Davao City, cell phone owners can use their phones in the streets without fear of the device being snatched from them.

Cell phone snatchers and robbers have either fled the city or have been buried in the cemetery.

A shadowy vigilante group responsible for the killings of notorious criminals in the city has eliminated cell phone robbery in the streets.

Two or three years ago, a 14-year-old hood snatched the mobile phone of a physically handicapped student. The young hood stabbed the student when the latter resisted.

The young hood was caught. But he didn't end up in jail, he ended up in the morgue. He was executed by the city's vigilante group.

There used to be two stores that bought and sold stolen mobile phones. Their owners were summoned by Mayor Rodrigo Duterte to his office. The mayor warned the fences that if they continued with their nefarious trade, they might end up like the 14-year-old hood.

The notorious fences fled the city.

* * *

The Manila Regional Court meted out last Wednesday the death penalty to a man charged with robbing and killing a Taiwanese, Chun Shien Chang, and his Filipino wife, Leonora Bedana, in Malate, Manila, in 1994.

The relatives of the Filipino wife cheered RTC judge, Luis Arranz, for the verdict.

But there's nothing to praise Judge Arranz for.

Why? Because it took him 10 years to reach the verdict. Why it took him a decade to resolve the robbery-slaying case is a sad and bad commentary on our justice system.

Justice delayed is justice denied. What if the accused, Emmanuel Paulo, was innocent? He would have been in jail 10 years.

Isn't there a directive from the Supreme Court giving lower courts a time frame within which to decide on a case? Ah, probably the time frame is 100 years.

(Editor's note: In an interview which was reported by the INQUIRER, Judge Arranz said he was the fifth judge to handle the case.)

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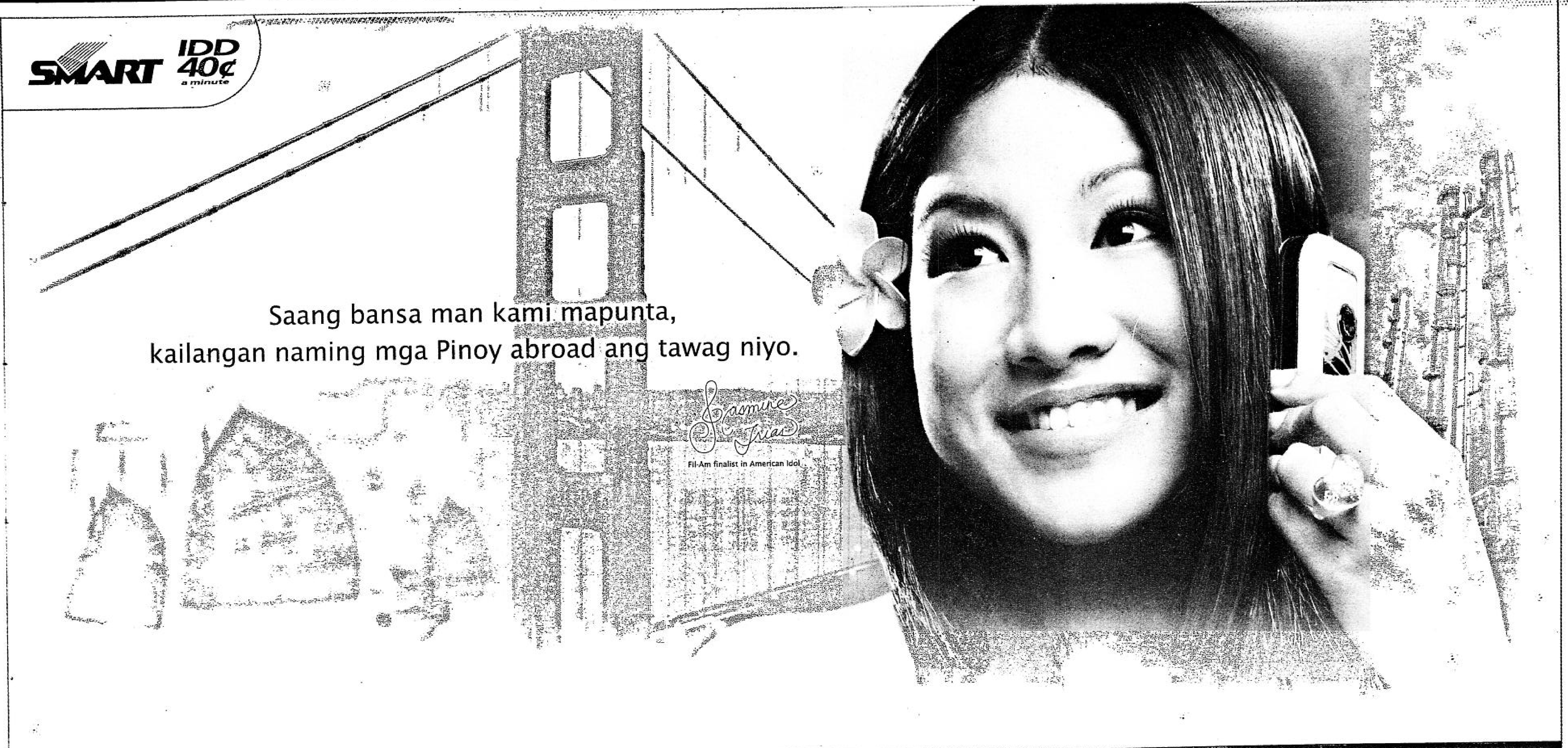

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PCU nips Perpetual, nears 8-year dream

GAMES MONDAY (*Rizal Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—San Beda vs Letran (Jrs-Game 1 Finals)

By Jasmine W. Payo

SOPHOMORE Jason Castro drained a three-pointer with five seconds left yesterday to bring Philippine Christian U within a game of fulfilling an eight-year championship dream.

The long, mighty heave, taken from the right flank, bubbled before sinking for a 70-68 PCU win over University of Perpetual Help Altas in Game 1 of the NCAA senior basketball final at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

His team was behind by two when he took the off-balanced jumper, and the hero in the close, rugged match swore it was a gift from God.

"*Suwerte lang, regalo ng Diyos.* I saw the time at five seconds, so I just took the shot," said the 18-year-old Castro.

PCU shoots for the crown when it again clashes with Perpetual in Game 2 of the best-of-three championship series on Wednesday at the Araneta Coliseum.

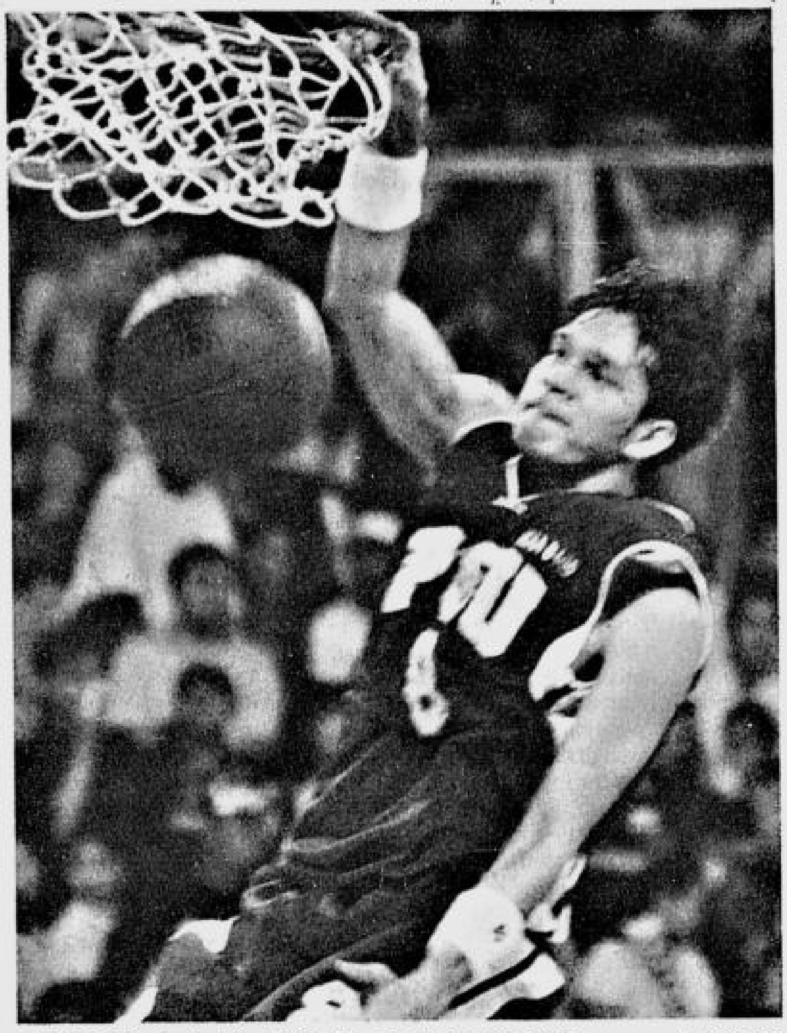
The Dolphins moved within a win of their first-ever NCAA crown without head coach Loreto Tolentino, slapped a one-game suspension for excessive complaining in PCU's semifinal win against Letran last Wednesday.

Tolentino's 25-year-old son, Elvis, took over the bench.

"My dad hugged and thanked me after the game. He stayed in the dugout the whole time. We just followed our plan. Whoever is open for a three, take it. If not, just make sure we get a basket," he said.

Robert Sanz, who topscored with 18 points, presided in the closing minutes to give PCU a 66-65 advantage.

But Noy Javier completed a three-point play to push the Altas ahead, 68-66, only 44 seconds remaining.



CARLOS Martin Cecilia of PCU does a bone-jarring dunk. RUDY ESPERAS

Perpetual could have padded its lead but Vladimir Joe missed his two charities in the final 28 seconds.

Another Perpetual miscue in the dying seconds that saw Javier turning the ball over during inbound nailed its fate.

Castro's clutch trey also overshadowed Javier's season-record of seven triples for a game-high 32 points.

In junior play, the Letran Squires arranged a best-of-three championship series against defending champion San Beda Cubs after dismissing the PCU Baby Dolphins, 78-68, in their semifinal playoff.

The scores:

PCU 70—Sanz 18, Espinas 16, Castro 16, Solis 6, Garrido 4, Retaga 4, Amparado 2, Cecilia 2, Belga 2, Santos 0, Gementiza 0

PERPETUAL 68—Javier 32, Cuenco 10, Joe 7, Misa 6, Refuerzo 5, Bauzon 5, Bamson 3, Apor 0

Quarters: 22-21, 34-34, 59-51, 70-68.

NO BACKING OUT: Obet Pagdanganan explains a point during yesterday's press conference. With him are Eric Buhain (left) and Cito Dayrit. JESS YUSON

Enough cash to host SEA Games—Obet

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NATIONAL officials involved in the preparations for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games yesterday tried to put an end to money worries over the hosting of the event.

If each of the 14,000 foreign athletes and officials would only spend at least $1,000, the country can easily recoup its P800-million budget for the Games.

That's according to SEAG chief organizer Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan, who said the country could be assured of earning the money.

Pagdanganan said there's no need to lose sleep over the SEAG price tag because the country stands to gain more from holding the Games for the first time since 1991.

The Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee chair made this assurance yesterday during a press conference attended by Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit, weightlifting boss Rep. Monico Puentevella and taekwondo's Robert Aventajado, among others.

"We are here to finally end all doubts as to our capability to host the Games," said Buhain. "We have done it before (1991)."

Puentevella earlier proposed that 10 percent of the slashed pork barrel of each of the 236 congressmen be allocated to the SEAG fund. He estimated the amount to reach P600 million.

PBA-BAP team-up key to hosting Asian caging

By June Navarro

A WORKING agreement between the Philippine Basketball Association and the Basketball Association of the Philippines would be a tremendous boost in the country's bid to host the 2007 Asian Basketball Confederation men's championship.

"If the talks between the PBA and the BAP become a success, I'm 80-percent sure we're going to secure the hosting," said former ABC secretary general Moying Martelino yesterday.

Martelino, secretary general from 1989-1998, said ABC officials would find it difficult to turn down the Manila hosting once the PBA and the BAP join hands in a bid to come up with a formidable Philippine team not only for Asian Games, but the ABC as well.

That's aside from the fact that Manila's last hosting of the ABC men's championship came 21 years ago, Martelino stressed.

"It's about time we bring the ABC to Manila. They (ABC officials) know that this is a basketball-crazy country and they'll be excited to come back here," said Martelino, who was executive director of the 1973 Manila ABC men's championship, which RP won over South Korea.

The ABC serves as the qualifying tournament to the World Championships and Olympics. The top two teams in the event will automatically clinch slots reserved for Asian countries.

The 2007 ABC could be the biggest opportu-

PBA-BAP/ A28

Bibat triumphs in the din by 3

By Musong R. Castillo

PLAYING before a hostile crowd, Michael Bibat pulled out all stops yesterday to win the Singapore Amateur championship at the Sentosa golf club's tough Serapong course.

The 20-year-old Bibat almost lost a seven-stroke advantage heading into the last five holes, regrouping in the final three to submit a 78, six-over-par, and win by three shots over New Zealander Mike Purser, who shot 73.

In winning his first title out of the junior ranks, Bibat pooled a 290 total.

Bibat tripped on a triple bogey on No. 15 as rains and strong winds swept the course, allowing Purser and Singapore's Choo Tze Huang to close in by two.

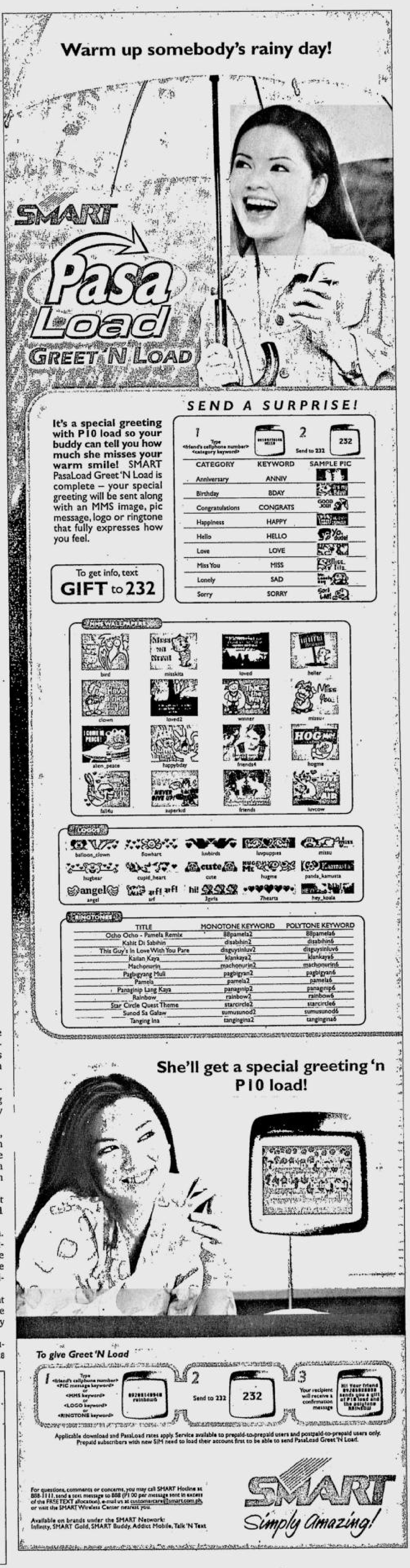
A huge gallery jeered Bibat no end, forcing compatriot Tommy Manotoc, who was playing a couple of flights ahead, to pull out and lend Bibat a morale boost.

Choo yielded three strokes in the last three to finish third at 294 after a 77.

Meanwhile, in the NGAP evaluation series for the World Amateur team, Juvic Pagunsan shot a leisurely 74 to rule the 144-hole event with a 564 total.

Jun Bernis—if Bibat's scores in Singapore will not count—finished second with a 576 tally after a 73 at the Riviera's Langer course.

Anya Tanpinco topped the women's side after an 83.



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Kahit Di Sabihin	disabihin2	disabihin6
This Guy's In Love With You Pare	disguysinluv2	disguysinluv6
Kailan Kaya	klankaya2	klankaya6
Machonurin	machonurin2	machonurin6
Pagbigyang Muli	pagbigyan2	pagbigyan6
Pamela	pamela2	pamela6
Panaginip Lang Kaya	panaginip2	panaginip6
Rainbow	rainbow2	rainbow6
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WOODS-MICKELSON

Power duo starts US Ryder Cup bid

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, Michigan—The Ryder Cup party was just a warmup.

When it was time to get serious, US captain Hal Sutton strolled to the microphone to make an announcement far too long in coming: Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson—America's two best players—were pairing up for the first time in Friday's opening match of the Ryder Cup.

"I felt like history needed it. I felt like the fans needed it," Sutton said Thursday at the glitzy opening ceremony. "And most of all, I felt like Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods needed it."

Sutton wanted to set a stirring tone right away for the three most intense days in golf. So did Europe, which sensed a Woods-Mickelson pairing for the first of four better-ball matches and sent out Colin Montgomerie and Padraig Harrington to stop them.

Harrington is Europe's best player. Montgomerie has the best Ryder Cup record.

"We can beat them," Monty declared. "If we do win that game, it will have a dramatic effect on the day. It would be huge for the European team—and everybody here—to see that we can cope with their top two." *AP*

TIGER Woods (right) and Phil Mickelson will kick off the United States' bid in the Ryder Cup. · AP

Different worlds mix in title bout

LAS VEGAS—Oscar De La Hoya won an Olympic gold medal, made millions early and carved out an empire that includes his own promotion company. Bernard Hopkins spent time in prison, fought for peanuts and waited until the age of 39 to get his big opportunity.

The two fighters meet Saturday night for the undisputed middleweight title after taking different paths to what may be the richest non-heavyweight fight ever.

De La Hoya has big fight experience and a glittering reputation. Hopkins carries a hunger born out of scrapping for every dollar he could get.

"You give me a rich fighter and a hungry fighter and I'm going with the hungry fighter," Hopkins said.

Hopkins will make a minimum $10 million to risk defend his middleweight titles. De La Hoya will make far more, at least $30 million, for the riskiest fight of his career.

Hopkins has defended titles 18 times and hasn't lost since Roy Jones Jr. beat him 11 years ago.

"The reason I took this fight is I know I can win," De La Hoya said. "All I want is those belts. Believe me when I tell you those belts are mine." *AP*

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Pearl Stakes honor 15 Marho pioneers

SMART Communications Inc. joins forces with the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners Inc. (Marho) in staging the 2004 Marho Pearl Stakes Races, the 30th Anniversary Racing Festival, today and Sunday at the Santa Ana Park.

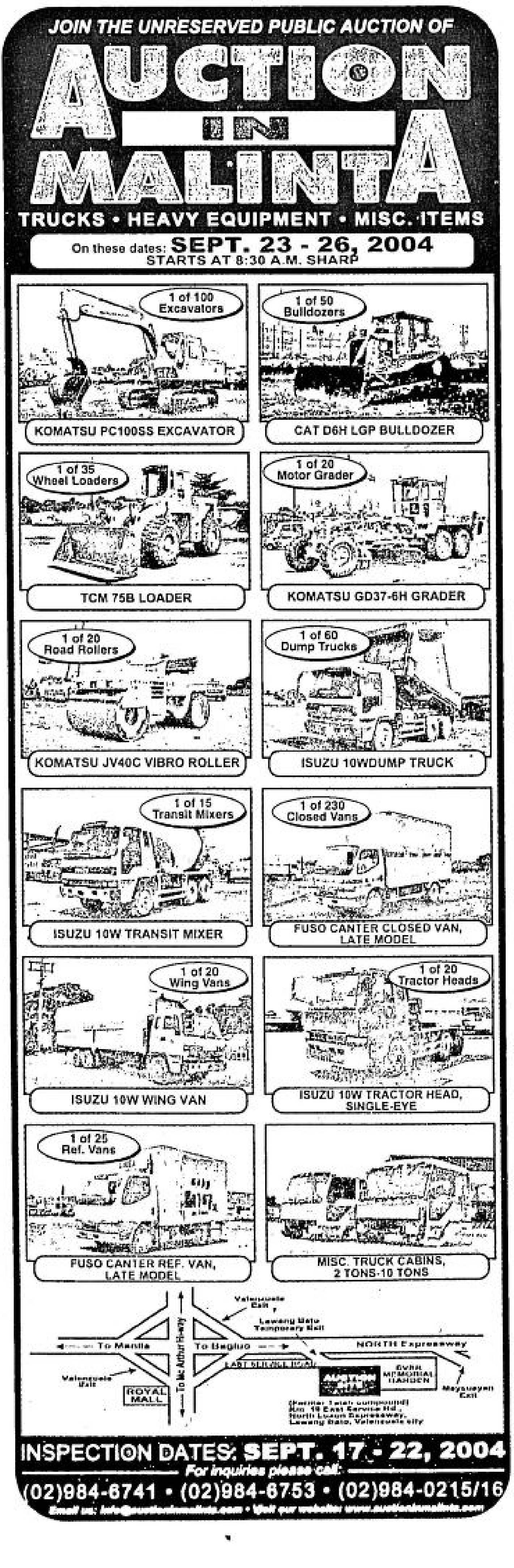
The sponsorship agreement involves the staging of 15 top-money cup races paying tribute to 15 distinguished horsemen who paved the way for the establishment of the first genuine group of local horse owners in the country.

"This special racing event is in honor of Marho's 15 founding members, pioneers in their own right, who have blazed the trail to ensure the continuing development of local horse racing," said Marho president Aristeo G. Puyat.

Highlight of Marho's 30th anniversary race festival is the Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. Cup in honor of Marho's founding chair and president, who has been solely credited for streamlining the operation of local horse racing through the creation of the Philippine Racing Commission (Philracom).

With the entry of Smart, Marho has increased the total guaranteed prize for the Eduardo Cojuangco Cup to P1 million.

RP YOUTH
The RP-Burlington Youth squad currently campaigning in the ABC juniors tournament in Banglaore, India, are (sitting, from left) Led Joseph Claravall, Harvey Aquino, Michael Sy, Mark Angelo Canlas and Rodel Raneses. (Middle, from left): Assistant coaches Britt Reroma and Ricardo King, team manager Teddy Pereña, Burlington GM Ruddy Tan, head coach Johny Tam and assistant coach Ching Ching Marcelino. (Standing, from left): Darryl Bautista, Dylan Simon Ababou, Jervy Cruz, Diogenes Villame, Andrian Celada, Ram Panganiban, Alvin John Calatayud and Allan Pador (utility). The Filipinos bowed to the Lebanese, 83-63, on Wednesday, but recovered with a 100-76 rout of the Kuwaitis Thursday.



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Batangas repulses Tribu

LIPA CITY—The Batangas 29ers went on a 17-0 tear in the final quarter to turn back favored Tribu Sugbu (Cebu Tribes), 86-84, Thursday night in the NBC (National Basketball Conference) national championship at the Cultural and Convention Center here.

The 29ers scored 17 straight points behind the hot hands of Lito Saygo to surge ahead, 84-76, en route to their fifth win in 13 games.

The Cebuanos finished the eliminations at 10-4. The win gave Batangas the homecourt edge against Baguio in the wildcard phase of the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, PCSO, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Cebu Ferries, Air Philippines, Supercat, Skygo Motorcycles, Trans-Asia, Accel and Molten.

Sagupaan 5-stag in Pampanga

THE NEW schedule of "Annual Sagupaan 5-Stag Derby," one of the derby crowd-drawers in Central Luzon every year, is on Sept. 23 (Thursday) at the Pampanga Coliseum. A prize of P500,000 is at stake. The event will be presented anew by Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and hosted by *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio. Leading the Metro Manila cockers are Gerry Ramos, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Tony Lasala, Benjie Lim, Boy Royo, Ramon Mancenares, Arnold Mendoza and two-time Stagfighter of the Year Sonny Lagon. Call 6963943 and 6398365.

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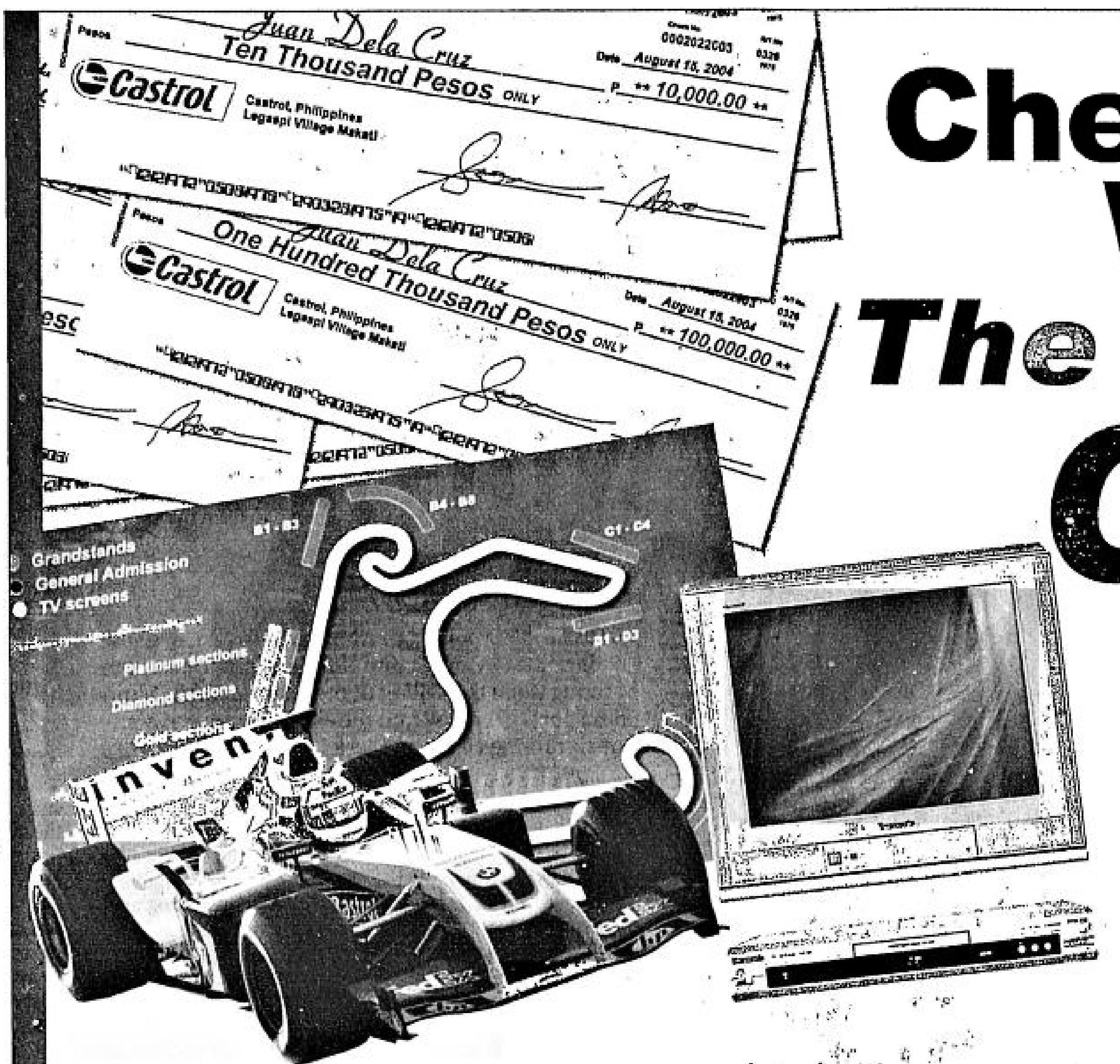
Derby begins

IT'S A BLOWOUT at Roligon Mega Cockpit starting at 5 p.m. today as Metro Manila's noted cockfighters compete against their counterparts from Laguna, Batangas, Quezon and Cavite in the BMJ-Mico 4-Stag Derby. Hosted by Boy Gamilla of Malabon City and Mimi Itchon Cabuyao, tonight's event is sponsored by Thunderbird Platinum —*sa paluan di mauunahan*. World Slasher champs Pol Estrellado & Boy Royo lead the participants.

Ulutan at PCC

FOUR days of cockfighting action (2-cock ulutan) unfolds at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit beginning tomorrow. Each champion will receive a guaranteed prize of P6,000 while the fastest kill champion may win any of the following prizes: color TV, refrigerators, DVD player, microwave oven and sacks of rice. Entre fee is only P1,000. Paying patrons will get free sandwich and drinks. Registration of entries starts at 8 a.m. Call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750



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William Ong
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Probo M. Villena
of Batangas City

Winners of the Home Entertainment System

Victor T. Lee
of Valenzuela City

Noel Rodolfo
of Tandang Sora, Quezon City

Winners of Goodyear Tires (1 set each)

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Roger Tsai *of Mandaue City, Cebu*
Alfredo Pulido *of Isabela*
Dick Rodriguez *of Sta. Cruz, Laguna*
Arnold Escanilla *of Parañaque*
Joel P. Pascua *of Sta. Maria, Pangasinan*
Henry Carlos *of Poblacion, Pampanga*
Marlon Garbo *of San Juan, Metro Manila*
Marissa Viernes *of Isabela*
Omar Romero *of Ermita, Manila*
Rolando N. Valles *of Urdaneta, Pangasinan*
Bernard J. Chua Chun *of Sucat, Parañaque*
Jayson M. Macahiya *of Carla Bay, Laguna*
Silvestre A. Mendoza Jr. *of Naguilian, La Union*
Pablo Patulot *of Agoo, La Union*
Renato Martin *of Hagonoy, Bulacan*
Tristan Tejada *of Batangas City*
George Tendencia *of Lucena City*
Ramon Y. Sanchez *of Biñan, Laguna*
Jonel A. Caberto *of Koronadal City*
Rodrigo Jabellana *of Cebu City*
Bienvenido Salenga *of Baguio City*
Edgar Gempesaw *of Davao City*
Nick Leung *of La Trinidad, Benguet*
Jose Martinez Jr. *of Novaliches, Quezon City*

4 Winners of True Value GC worth P10,000

Ferdinand J. Dilao *of Silang, Cavite*
Rodolfo F. Beltran *of Cagayan de Oro City*
Lorenzo Hernando *of Laoag City*
Carlos C. Garcia *of Biñan, Laguna*

4 Winners of HandyMan GC worth P10,000

Arnulfo Vergara *of Los Baños, Laguna*
Luis Grande *of Pasig City*
Gerry R. Gorospe *of Cagayan de Oro City*
Heldiliza S. Cadag *of Tacloban City*

Winners of Ace Hardware GC worth P10,000

Ronaldo Silvestre *of Baliuag, Bulacan*
Arnel Cañon *of Iligan City*
Nelson Ubanan *of Cainta, Rizal*
Jun A. Muli *of Baguio City*

50 Winners of Castrol jackets

Jemuel Yumang *of Imus, Cavite*
Isidro Gayorgor *of General Trias, Cavite*
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Teofilo Danganan Jr. *of Bugallon, Pangasinan*
Danilo M. Reyes *of Cabanatuan City*
Dino Valerio *of Cagayan de Oro City*
Benfil Buenvenida *of Antipolo City*
Brian C. Gempesaw *of Lanang, Davao City*
Ernesto Ah *of Quezon City*
Pedro T. Saldua *of Negros Oriental*
Erma Tolentino *of Cagayan de Oro City*
Tirso B. Mendoza *of San Fernando, La Union*
Greg Ferdinand B. Lustiva *of Pasig City*
Edgar Lopez *of Bacolod City*
Jose Gabriel *of Silang, Cavite*
Janice Malinao *of Dagupan City*
Manolito Emflorgo *of Cainta, Rizal*
Julio Atencio *of Caloocan City*
Cesar G. Onelia *of Sta. Rosa, Laguna*
Arnel Gaza *of Bombon, Camarines Sur*
Efren Pagcaliwagan *of Batangas City*
Rodelio Romero *of Lagao, General Santos City*
Manolito R. Dauz *of Sta. Catalina, Ilocos Sur*
Eufrocino Requerme *of Sinayawan, Valencia City*
Rafael Santiago *of Parañaque City*
Jesus Ocado *of Cagayan de Oro City*
Mike Mendoza *of San Fernando, Pampanga*
Aldo M. Valbuena *of Los Baños, Laguna*
Jerry G. Gamali *of Cagayan de Oro City*
Michael P. Caguioa *of Santolan, Pasig City*
Rene Ledesma *of Cebu City*
Adriano Marasigan *of Sta. Cruz, Manila*
Arsenio S. Vicencio *of Cabanatuan City*
Wilfredo Gonzalvo *of Balagtas, Bulacan*
Rey David Garcia *of Fairview, Quezon City*
Alex V. Maquiling *of Murcia, Negros Occidental*
Ruben B. Mallari *of Tanauan City, Batangas*
Nancy Esguerra *of Binmaley, Pangasinan*
Rusty Dilar *of Bacolod City*
Clodualdo T. Balinado *of Cabuyao, Laguna*
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Casing Kuznetsova

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

SVETLANA Kuznetsova can be a role model to aspiring athletes the world over, but more specifically to those coming from Third World countries like the Philippines.

When she was seven years old, Kuznetsova received a bicycle as a birthday gift from her mother.

Why a bicycle?

Well, because Kuznetsova's mother is a six-time world cycling champion. She wanted her daughter to follow in her footsteps. Already, a son of hers had taken up cycling. What's one more child getting initiated into mom's beloved sport? In fact, only very recently, the son placed second in the world cycling championship.

There was no doubt cycling ran in the family.

But then, the young Svetlana had other things in mind. The bicycle did not seem to interest her. It was tennis that fascinated her. She soon found herself trading the bicycle for a tennis racquet.

Some 12 years later, Kuznetsova would be crowned champion of the US Open tennis championship. As she basked in the glare of the spotlight, Kuznetsova couldn't help but remember the days at the "salt mine."

Said Kuznetsova: "I remember how my mom suffered. She was crying during the night because I was not doing so well."

Hers was a story of mother and daughter struggling together to succeed against all odds.

"I traveled with my mom," said Kuznetsova. "She put so much time into me."

We have seen fathers looking after the athletic career of their children. Tiger Woods' father. Michael Jordan's father. The Williams sisters' father. Alvin Patrimonio's Mang Angel. Lydia de Vega's Tatang. Paeng Nepomuceno's Mang Angel. Mark Paragua's Ric.

Without Martina Hingis' tight-guarding mother, the Miss Swiss would not have achieved her enormous success in tennis.

And didn't Lourdes, Jennifer Rosales' mother, drop everything just to be by her daughter's side wherever she is?

Almost always, you find a parent behind a successful athlete.

Kuznetsova is no exception.

"Mom and I always tried looking for the right coach," said Kuznetsova. "We changed coaches a lot."

Kuznetsova eventually settled in Spain, where she found the coach to her liking.

"My parents made enormous sacrifices," she said, "and I hope to repay them."

Although her daughter dropped the sport mother had loved since childhood, Mom never sulked.

"We didn't have much money in the family because it was all going to tennis," said Kuznetsova. "Mom never bought anything for herself. It is just unbelievable to remember those things."

Kuznetsova's rise to fame followed the earlier heroic exploits this year of two other Russian women—Anastasia Myskina, 22, winning the French Open, and Maria Sharapova, 17, pocketing Wimbledon.

Call it a fairy tale and I won't disagree.

Some decades back, such Russian women like Olga Morozova and Natasha Zvereva had gained some success internationally.

Morozova reached the finals twice, at Wimbledon in 1968, and the French Open in 1974. Each time, she lost.

Zvereva came along to reach the French Open finals in 1988. But she had a Steffi Graf for an opponent—a Graf at her best—and lost.

Russian ladies tennis went into hiatus after that. It bounced back only when Boris Yeltsin, a passionate tennis fan, became Russian president.

The men triggered the comeback, with Yevgeny Kafelnikov spearheading it. He won the French Open in 1996, the Australian Open in 1999 and the Olympic gold medal in Sydney in 2000.

After years of struggle for Russian women as personified by Anna Kournikova, a rabid competitor whose only title worth talking about is her whistle-bait figure and Miss Universe smile, comes the invasion by the Russian women of the tennis world.

Kuznetsova, only 19, but already the winner of $1 million with her victory in the US Open, has helped tightened the screws.

If you catch her mom crying at night from hereon, no need to guess what those tears are for.

GRAND, WORKABLE PLAN: Jose "Peping" Cojuangco looks forward.

SAVING RP SPORTS

Peping offe win-win me

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE TESTED politician who wants to take over the Philippine Olympic Committee has grandiose plans, among them the selling of the historic Rizal Memorial Sports Complex and the establishment of a national training center in Clark Field, Pampanga.

Former Tarlac Rep. José "Peping" Cojuangco yesterday also belittled the problems besetting Philippine sports.

He said these pale in comparison to what he's been through in politics.

In his first public statement since announcing his plans to run for POC president, Cojuangco undermined the quarrels among sports bodies, particularly the national sports associations.

"I have experiences in the past, especially in politics when parties have differences, which I think are far bigger than what the NSAs are fighting over," Cojuangco told the INQUIRER. "I'm not promising miracles in every aspect but I think true sportsmen will believe the programs that I plan to implement."

On top of Cojuangco's agenda, if he wins over incumbent POC chief Celso Dayrit in November, is the establishment of a national training center in the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga, which he envisions to be the next headquarters of Philippine sports.

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Milo qualifying race goes to Butuan

OVER 4,000 runners gather when the 28th National Milo Marathon goes to Mindanao for the final time this season with the staging tomorrow of the the Butuan City elimination race.

The runners start from the town plaza for the 21-km qualifying run, 5-K fun run, 3-K kiddies age group race held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel Manila, Cebu Pacific, adidas, Globe Handyphone and the Department of Tourism.

Jonard Comonong and Mary Jane Cahig, who ruled the Caraga region elimination leg last year, are again favored to dominate this year's field.

The winners of the 21-K race will receive trophies, P10,000 cash purse and a Globe Handyphone. The top three finishers in the men's and women's 21-K races, meanwhile, will advance to the national finals on Nov. 14 in Metro Manila where P75,000 await the champion.

A total of P940,000 in purses await winners in the national finals as well as the side events in the 10K, 5K, and 3K, in November.

The Butuan City run will also feature school cheering and team competitions.

City Mayor Democrito "Boy Daku" Plaza II has been invited to fire the starting gun at 6 a.m. Also invited to grace the awarding ceremonies are Celedonio L. Layon Jr., director of DepEd, Luz S. Almeda, assistant director; Superintendent Eden C. Omboy of Butuan City and Superintendent Ponciano A. Joven of Agusan del Norte.

The 28th National Milo Marathon elimination races have already gone to Lipa City, General Santos, Iloilo, Metro Manila, Cagayan de Oro, Olongapo, Cebu, Tacloban, Naga, Davao and Laoag City.

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national athletes currently in the roster.

"If we can present a good program, we will not run out of people willing to help," said Cojuangco. "These programs will be a signal to the contributors to lend their support."

As for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games, Cojuangco said he is confident the country can raise funds for the hosting.

He even called for transparency with regard to the generation of funds from government and the private sector.

"If we can present a united front—and I think I have gained enough support to unite Philippine sports—we can expect (government) to help," he said.

Cojuangco, who had served as president of the national bowling and golf associations and is now the equestrian boss, added that winning should not be the end-all goal of his administration. Rather, it is "character building and discipline."

The gold medals, he said, will surely follow "once we set things straight."

He also defended himself from claims that he may not be immediately reachable once he gets elected as POC president.

"I have been a congressman five times without losing, I was a former councilor, vice mayor and mayor," said Cojuangco. "If I can't be reached by my constituents, how could have I won all those years."

Tigers pin 2nd loss on Koreans

THE COCA-COLA Tigers edged the SK Knights, 93-90, Thursday night in the Philippine Basketball Association-Korean Basketball League goodwill series at the Arellano University Gym.

William Antonio canned two free throws and the Tigers defended well in the last five seconds to hand the Koreans their second straight defeat.

The Sta. Lucia Realtors also beat the Knights, 106-103, Wednesday.

SK import Leon White, who suited up for Purefoods in its successful campaign in the 2002 Governors Cup, erupted for 28 points but the Tigers held their ground on a well-balanced attack.

Korean deadshot Cho Song Hyun nearly stole the show as he made three straight triples that brought the Knights back to life, 90-91, in the closing seconds.

The scores:

COCA-COLA 93—Morano 15, Antonio 13, Hatfield 12, David 12, Juinio 11, Wainwright 10, Reavis 10, Abarrientos 6, Hugnatan 3, Avenido 1.

SK KNIGHTS 90—White 28, Chun He 15, Chun 14, Cho 9, Lim 8, Lang 6, Park 6, Lee 2, Lim Jong 2.

Quarters: 22-22, 31-40, 65-61, 93-90.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

RUDY Hatfield's tough defense helped Coca-Cola subdue the SK Knights.

PBA-BAP team-up . . .

From page A25

nity for the country to qualify for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

The RP five last played in the 1972 Munich Olympiad.

Martelino said although China, Korea, Japan and even 2006 Asian Games host Qatar are expected to bid, the BAP could persuade ABC officials to give the Philippines a chance since these countries have taken turns hosting the event in the last 20 years.

"If I were in the BAP, I'd convince ABC officials to grant us the hosting by citing the last time it was held here and the popularity it could generate," added Martelino.

Traditionally, key ABC officials, led by the president, vice president, secretary-general and treasurer, choose the host country while the rest of the board confirms the decision.

"The bidder should have a good standing as a member of the ABC. In 1973, everybody was happy with the hosting, so I guess we wouldn't be denied if we try," said Martelino.

"Money is not the problem. We could generate funds through sponsorships. What's important are the things that we could offer as hosts," he added.

At least P6 million will be spent for the weeklong event.

Jaguars earn another shot at UCAA title

PHILIPPINE School of Business Administration turned back No. 2 seed La Salle-Dasmariñas, 69-64, to book a return trip to the finals of the 3rd Universities and Colleges Athletics Association (UCAA) basketball tournament at the Pasay Sports Complex.

Bong Sagala topscored for PSBA with 19 points, including eight in the final period as the Jaguars overcame a six-point deficit.

"We're thankful we managed to get through)," said Jaguars mentor Moises Kallos.

The Jaguars, runners-up to ousted champion St. Francis of Assisi the past two seasons, meet top seeds Emilio Aguinaldo Generals for the title of the eight-school meet backed by Accel, Arena swimwear, Shakey's Pizza, New Balance shoes, Villa de Oro Boracay, Molten and Mikasa balls.

Game 1 of the best-of-three title series is set Sept. 28 at the Pasay Sports Complex.

The scores

PSBA 69—Sagala 19, Phiel 17, Mercado 10, Taronas 7, Diaz 7, Briones 5, Mangera 3, Villatena 1.

DLSU-D 64—Rosales 14, Reyes 11, Baguio 9, Makpil 6, Forto 6, Saljade 3, Hasanon 2.

Quarters: 11-12, 33-35, 50-53, 69-64.

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ua strikes for lead

onal Master Mark Paragua wins to regain solo leadership earn the Grandmaster title in rnament in Crimea, Ukraine.

six-time Turkmenistan chamnageldyev in the ninth round sian IM Alexsander Obukhov 7.0 points.

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lon Bernardino, Contributor

GUIDICELLI

Guidicelli pulls off 2nd karting sweep

CEBU CITY—Cebu Racing Group top driver Matteo Guidicelli scored a double victory last weekend in the seventh leg of the 2004 PCSO-Shell Superkarting Series at the Kart Zone here.

Guidicelli, backed up by Penshoppe, Oakley and CRG Karts, posted the fastest lap time of 26.09 seconds as he wowed the hometown crowd with his big triumph in the Rotax Max Juniors class over Marty Aguilar of Bosch-Intelco and third placer Mark Bumgarner of M&M Racing.

Guidicelli then dominated the premier Formula Open class over defending champion Michelle Bumgarner of M&M Racing and third placer Allan Uy of Alessandra-PCR Racing Team.

Sharing honors with Guidicelli was former jet ski rider Jan Jan Gonzales of the CRG who ruled the Formula Rotax Max Expert division over Manila bets Tim Gosnel, Lee Bumgarner of M&M Racing, Tom Stockinger, and Marcel Thenu.

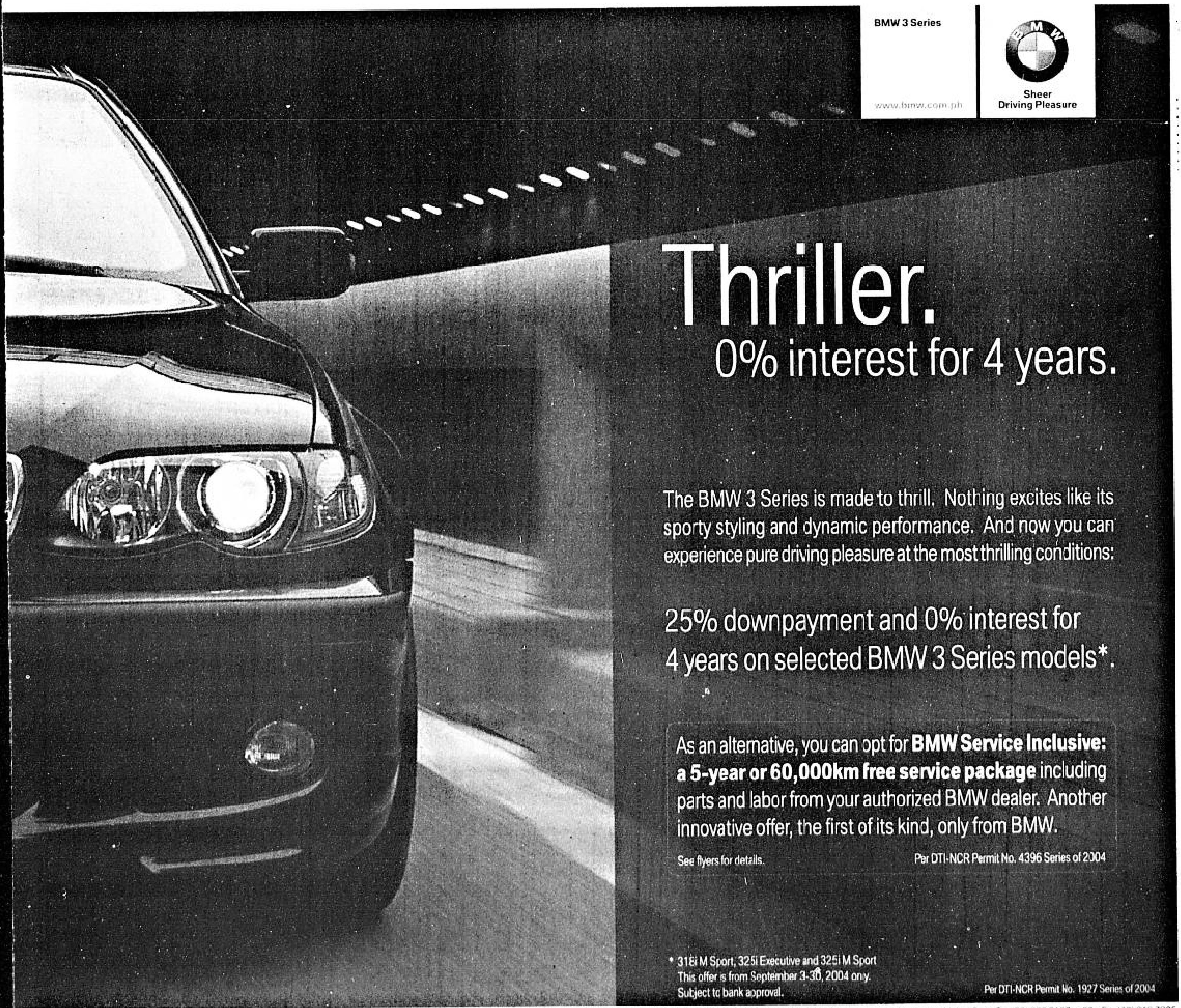
It was the second double victory for Guidicelli; he achieved the same feat in the second leg last April.

In the first heat last Saturday, Guidicelli suffered a broken steering wheel in the 12th lap but came back to top the second heat over Villalon and Uy.

It was smooth sailing for Guidicelli in the final heat where he preserved his hold of the pole throughout the 25-lap race.

Indy Villalon of Birel-Fila took fourth place in the Formula Open while Mark Bumgarner, Marlon Stockinger of Birel-Fila and Blake Go of CRG ended fifth, sixth and seventh, respectively.

The other class winners were Daniel Cleak, Robert Buxton and Natasha Buxton.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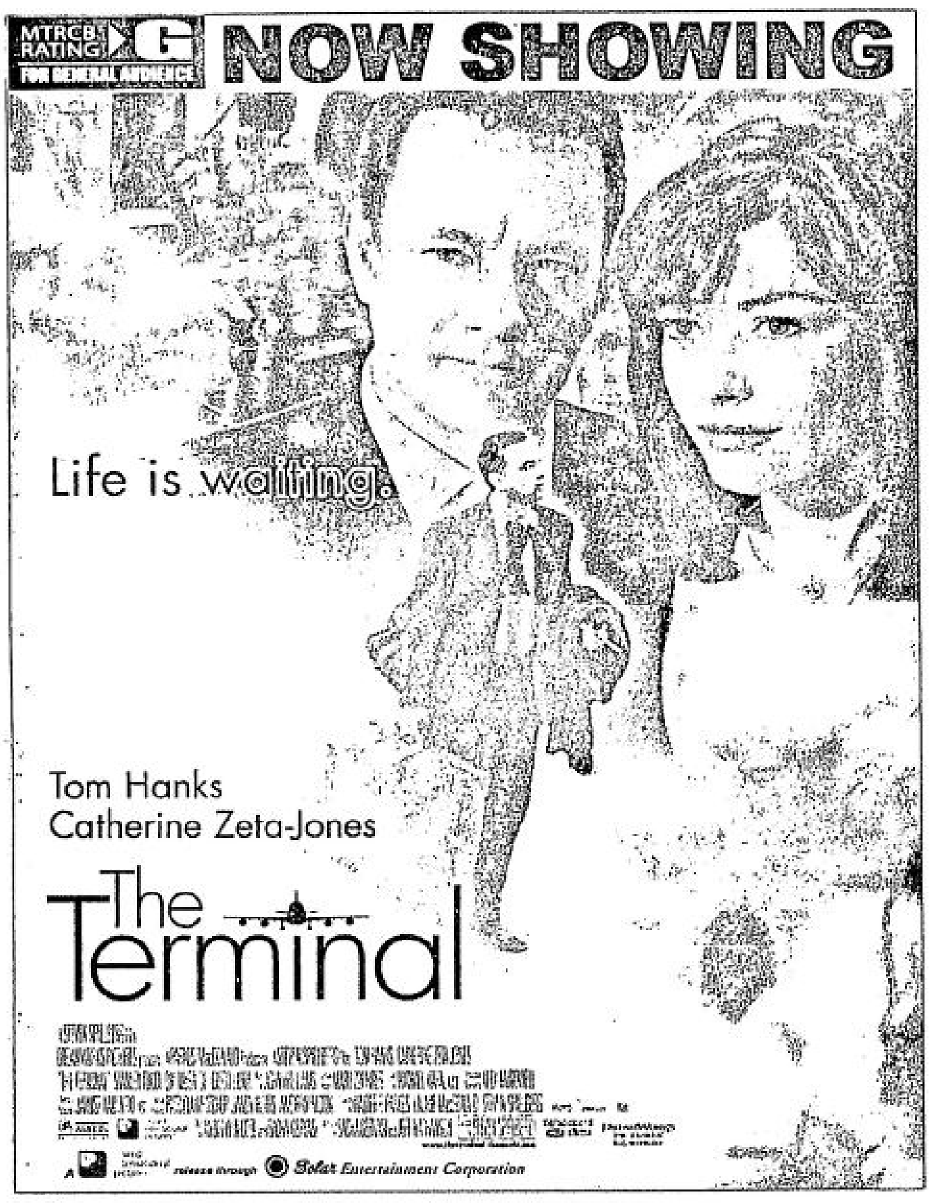
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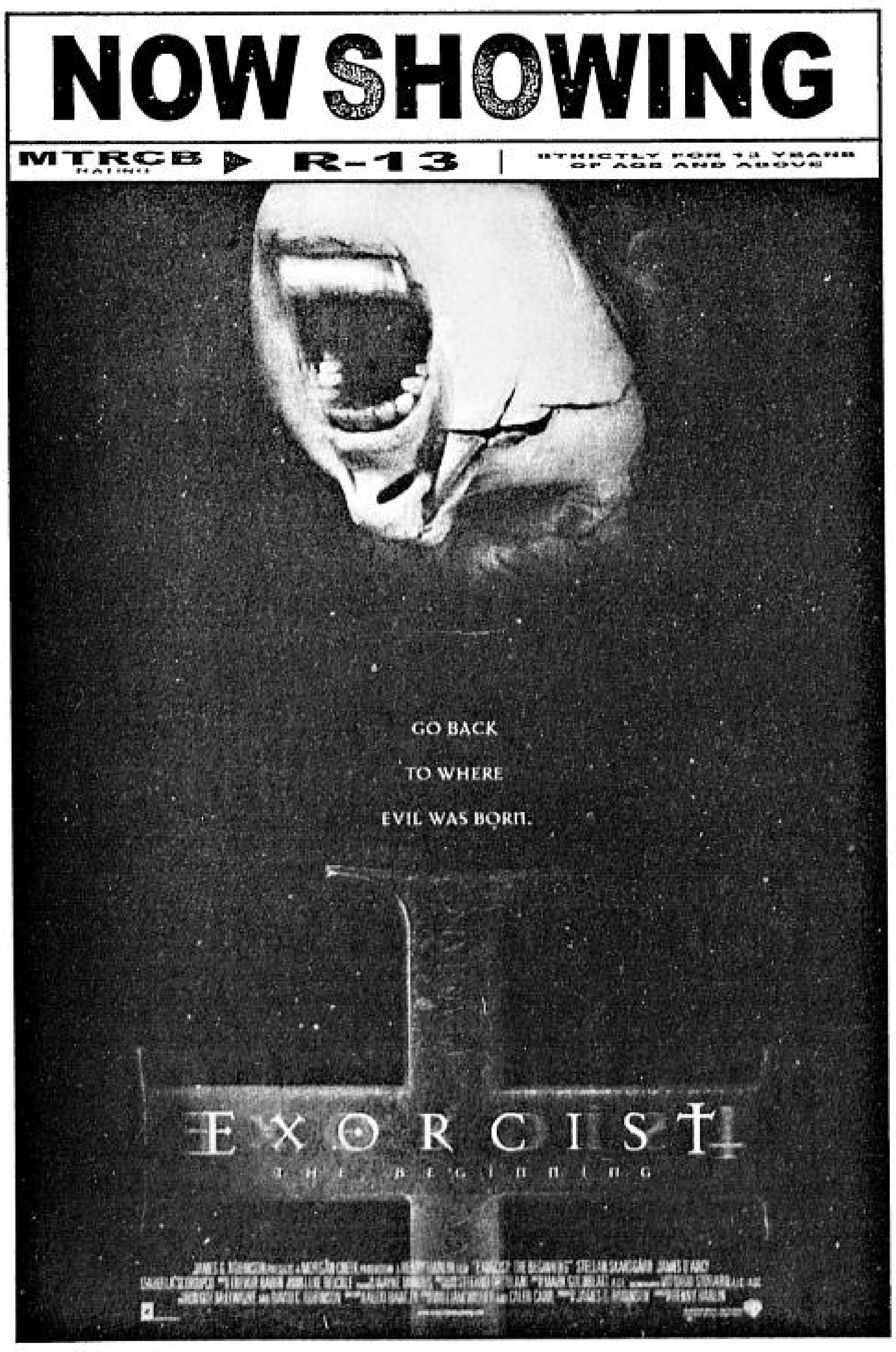
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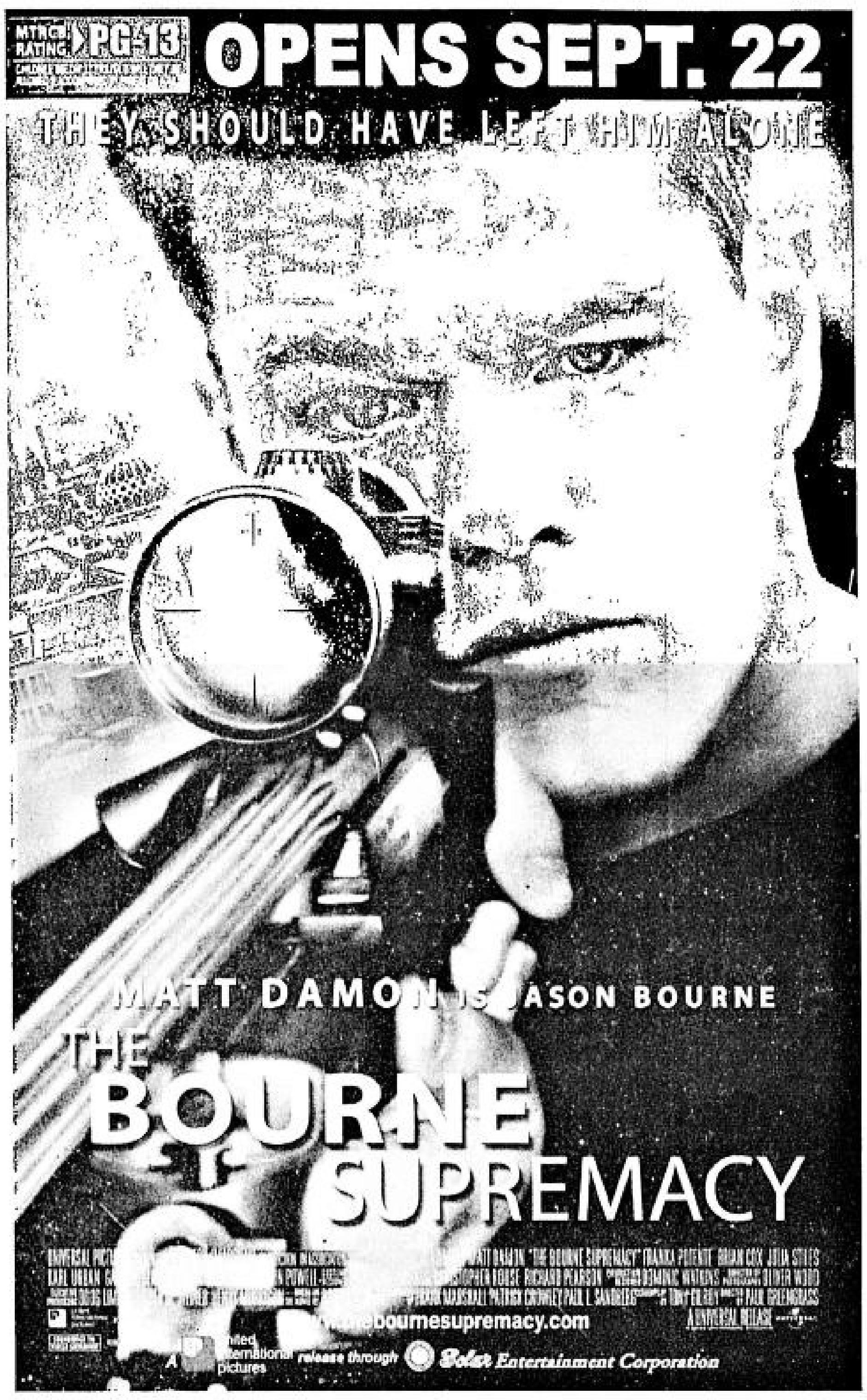
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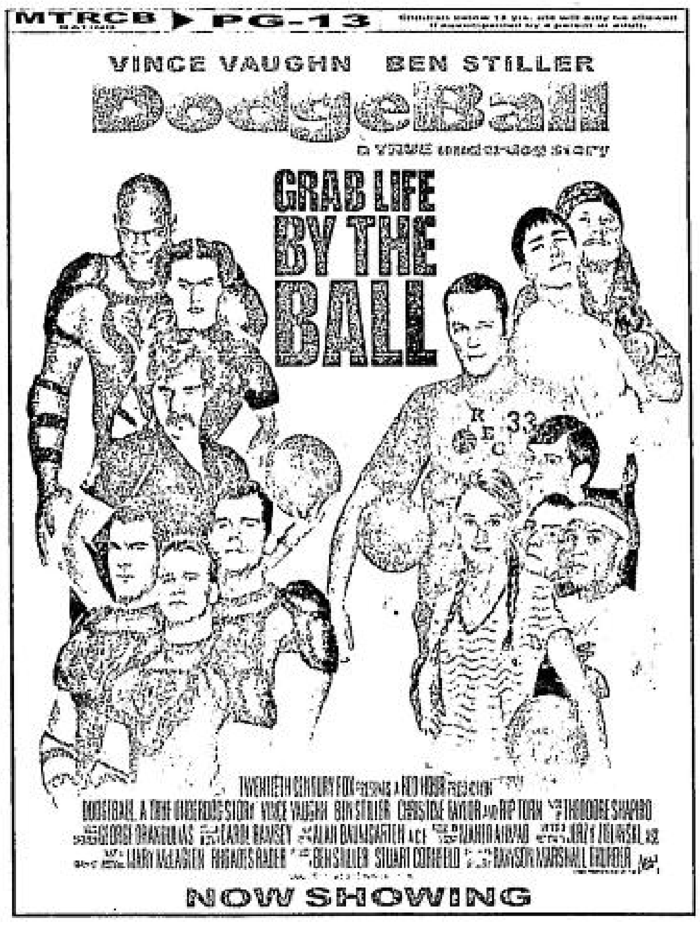
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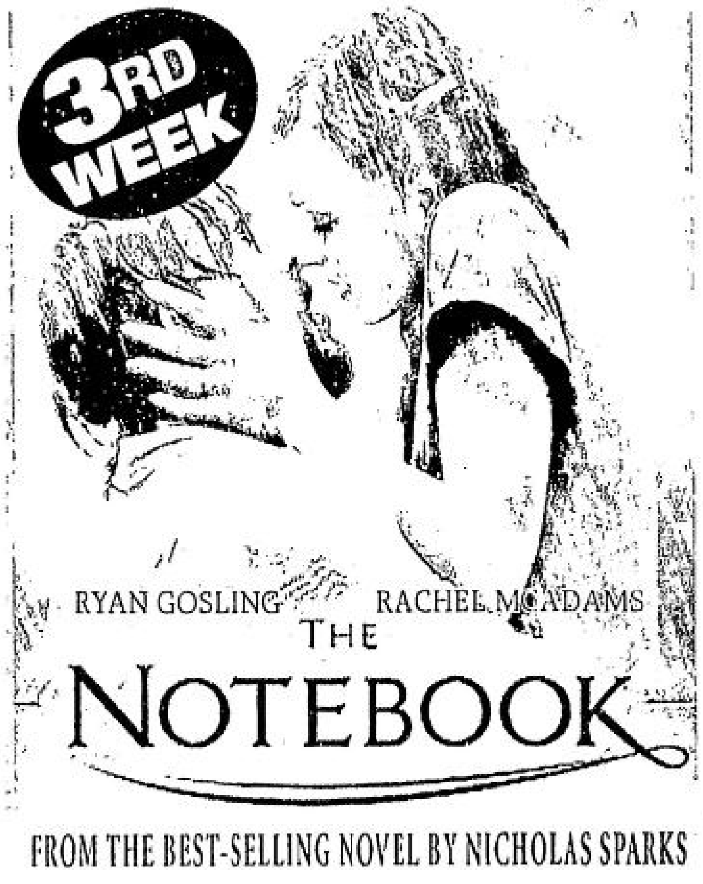
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MATT LeBlanc plays the title character in "Joey."

'Friends'

From page A25

an unlimited supply of yet-to-be-met neighbors at Joey's apartment complex.

Drea de Matteo ("The Sopranos") is instantly in gear as Gina, a take-charge sister and mom (but enough already with the breast-implant jokes!). Paulo Costanzo ("Road Trip") is appealing as a brainy naif—a comic counterpoint to his uncle and mom.

After 10 years as Joey, series star Matt LeBlanc has the role down pat, and it's a continuing delight to watch him work.

Joey also gets a flash of self-insight.

Adaptable

"I was happy in New York," he tells Gina, imploring her to be a little more adaptable. "I tried really hard to keep things from changing. But, everyone else got married and had kids and moved on. They all changed. So, I'm giving change a shot. Hoping things stay the same—it doesn't work."

This is a fine moment from both the actor and writers, and clear evidence how solidly the series is grounded. There's nothing revolutionary about "Joey," but there's plenty of new ground to cover with this old friend. *AP*

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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CINEMA-6	THE NOTEBOOK
CINEMA-7	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-8	NENA INOSENTE (RE-ISSUE)
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ANACONDAS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	13 GOING ON 30
CINEMA-12	MINDHUNTERS
CINEMA-14	THE TERMINAL
CINEMA-15	FENG SHUI
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	ALIEN VS PREDATOR
CINEMA-1	NOW THAT I HAVE YOU
CINEMA-2	GARFIELD
CINEMA-4	[illegible]
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Katie Melua sings with a maturity that belies her youth

By Noelani Torre

THERE'S a new pop star on the rise, and she bears absolutely no resemblance to Britney Spears, Christina Aguilera, and all the other glossy blondes out there. This pop star is selling music, not sex, and—wonder of wonders—she sings, and it's not bubblegum and cotton candy, either.

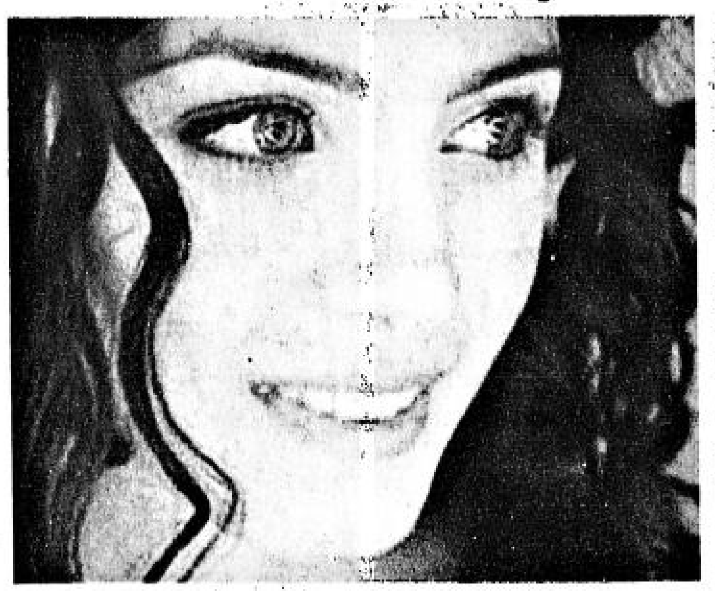
One of this new breed of singers is 19-year-old Katie Melua, a Georgian born honey-voiced Brit with a yen for jazz and the blues. This description bears more than a little resemblance to the ubiquitous Ms. Jones, to be sure, but in our opinion the pop world needs more talents like them.

Melua splashed into the scene just last year when her single "The Closest Thing To Crazy" received extensive radio airplay and even hit No. 1 in the British charts.

Debut album

Her debut album, "Call Off the Search" (Dramatico/Universal), has proven to be just as successful, knocking Dido off the top spot earlier this year. We're only just hearing about her in this part of the world, however, as the publicity behind this rising star is, for once, not in overdrive.

"The fame thing is not my thing," she has said in a couple of interviews. "To be honest, I would just like people to appreciate the music. I don't really care if we don't get extremely successful or make tons of money; the most amazing thing to me would be 10 people saying that my music has really touched them, rather than a hundred people just buying my album for the sake of it."



MELUA. Honey-voiced Brit with a yen for jazz and the blues.

Direct gaze

These aren't the sort of sentiments that most singers can get away with, especially Spears and her sisters, but Melua, with her brisk accent and direct gaze, is somehow believable.

Discovered by Mike Batt (The Wombles) when she was only 18 and still studying at the Brit School for Performing Arts, Melua has long had an interest in music (she plays the guitar and the piano).

Other musicians she counts among her influences are Eva Cassidy, Ella Fitzgerald, Joni Mitchell, and Bob Dylan. In fact, one of the two songs she penned in her album, "Faraway Voice," is dedicated to Cassidy.

Melua has oft been compared to Norah Jones, but their only resemblance, really, is in the kind of music they choose to perform. Norah's well-known for her husky pipes, whereas Katie has a more girlish voice, with a tendency towards sweetness.

Sugar overload

The songs in "Call Off the Search" are, of course, meant to showcase that voice, and though they're all technically glossy, some of them are either too soft or light and breezy for our taste. It's a style that, combined with that sweet voice, sometimes results in sugar overload.

Still, it's an enjoyable album all in all, and Melua sings with a maturity that belies her age. We're looking forward to her future releases, where we hope to hear more of her own songs.

Kevin Spacey, Jamie Foxx portray Bobby Darin and Ray Charles

TORONTO—They died 31 years apart, but Ray Charles and Bobby Darin got to jam together at the Toronto International Film Festival—thanks to Jamie Foxx and Kevin Spacey.

Over the weekend Spacey, director and star of the Darin biopic, "Beyond the Sea," turned up at a festival party where Foxx, who plays Charles in "Ray," was doing a rap number atop a piano. Foxx hauled Spacey up onstage, and the two actors had a go at Darin's first hit from the 1950s.

"So, Bobby Darin and Ray Charles got together and did 'Splish-Splash,' " Spacey said in an interview with the Associated Press at the Toronto festival, where "Beyond the Sea" and "Ray" were playing.

"Ray" comes to theaters next month; "Beyond the Sea" in December.

BOB Hoskins, Kate Bosworth and Kevin Spacey topbill "Beyond the Sea."

Similarities

The films bear a number of similarities. Both were a long time coming, Spacey working for 12 years to bring "Beyond the Sea" to the screen, and "Ray" director Taylor Hackford struggling for 15 years to tell Charles' story.

Each filmmaker had full backing from the principals. Charles was on board with Hackford from the start, recording new versions of his songs for "Ray" and giving his blessing to a rough cut of the film a month before he died in June.

Darin's wife, Sandra Dee, and their son supported Spacey's film, turning over the original musical arrangements used by Darin, who died in 1973 at age 37, for Spacey's recreations of the tunes.

The films present their protagonists warts and all—Charles' heroin addiction and boundless womanizing, Darin's neglect of his family in his almost fanatical devotion to his career.

And, say the filmmakers, both men are long overdue for such movie tributes.

"If you believe in God, you know that He took extra time when it came to making Ray Charles," Foxx said. "He said, 'I'm going to take my time, so when Ray Charles gets here, he's going to be a little misunderstood, he's going to be complex, and he's going to be interesting.

Different

"I'm not going to allow him to see, but I'm going to allow him to see in a different way. I'm going to allow him to feel, I'll make him change culture. He's going to be the person to show people that you can break down color barriers, because I can't see what color you are."

Because he died young from complications during open heart surgery, Darin has become a forgotten man next to Charles.

But like Charles, who blended gospel, R&B and country influences, Darin scored hits in a range of styles with "Beyond the Sea," "Dream Lover," "Mack the Knife" and "If I Were a Carpenter."

Spacey got his early musical education from his father's extensive collection, which included Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald and Darin.

"By the time I was in my teens, I thought Bobby Darin was of all of them the greatest," Spacey said. "I considered him the coolest cat in the room."

Showmanship

Spacey, who performed in musicals from his teens into his 20s, sings his own numbers in "Beyond the Sea," admirably capturing Darin's swinging showmanship. He plans a 13-city concert tour performing Darin's songs with a big band in December to promote the film, which he hopes will rekindle respect for the singer's accomplishments.

"It was important for Kevin to have Bobby Darin finally receive the credit he deserved," said Kate Bosworth, who plays Dee in "Beyond the Sea." "Because Darin was so up against the clock in terms of his health, he felt like his time was running out. So, he wanted to do everything quickly. People could never quite catch up with what he was doing."

Singing voice

For "Ray," Hackford never thought about using anyone's singing voice but Charles' for most of the tunes. Foxx, a classically trained pianist who spent time with Charles to emulate his keyboard style, voices a few songs from Ray's early career, when he sang in a softer style akin to Nat King Cole's.

The bulk of the hits—among them "I Got a Woman," "What'd I Say," "Unchain My Heart" and "Hit the Road Jack"—are Charles' own boisterous recordings, with Foxx lipsynching.

"Ray Charles has one of the most renowned and recognizable voices in the world," said Hackford. "The only reason to do something like that is if you can do it better. But, will you be able to do better than Ray Charles?" AP

'JOEY'

'Friends' spinoff is friendly, fun and full of laughs

NEW YORK—The big news: They didn't screw it up.

Smoothly and amusingly, 'Joey' picks right up where "Friends" left off last May.

In the premiere telecast, Joey Tribbiani arrives in Hollywood to pursue his acting career and hangs out with his big sister, Gina, a sexy hairdresser and young single mother.

Brilliant

Her brilliant, endearingly geeky 20-year-old son, Michael, plots to get out from under her thumb and share Joey's cool new apartment—but Gina resists.

Joey lands a couple of auditions, but the jobs fall through. And he falls for a good-looking neighbor who turns out to be married. (Her wedding ring is prominently displayed on her left hand, but lovably dimwitted Joey often gets left and right confused.)

Thus is this spinoff on its way.

Potential

While the audition scenes are a bit routine (didn't we go through all this on "Cybill" and countless comedies about wannabe actors?), home life seems full of potential—especially with

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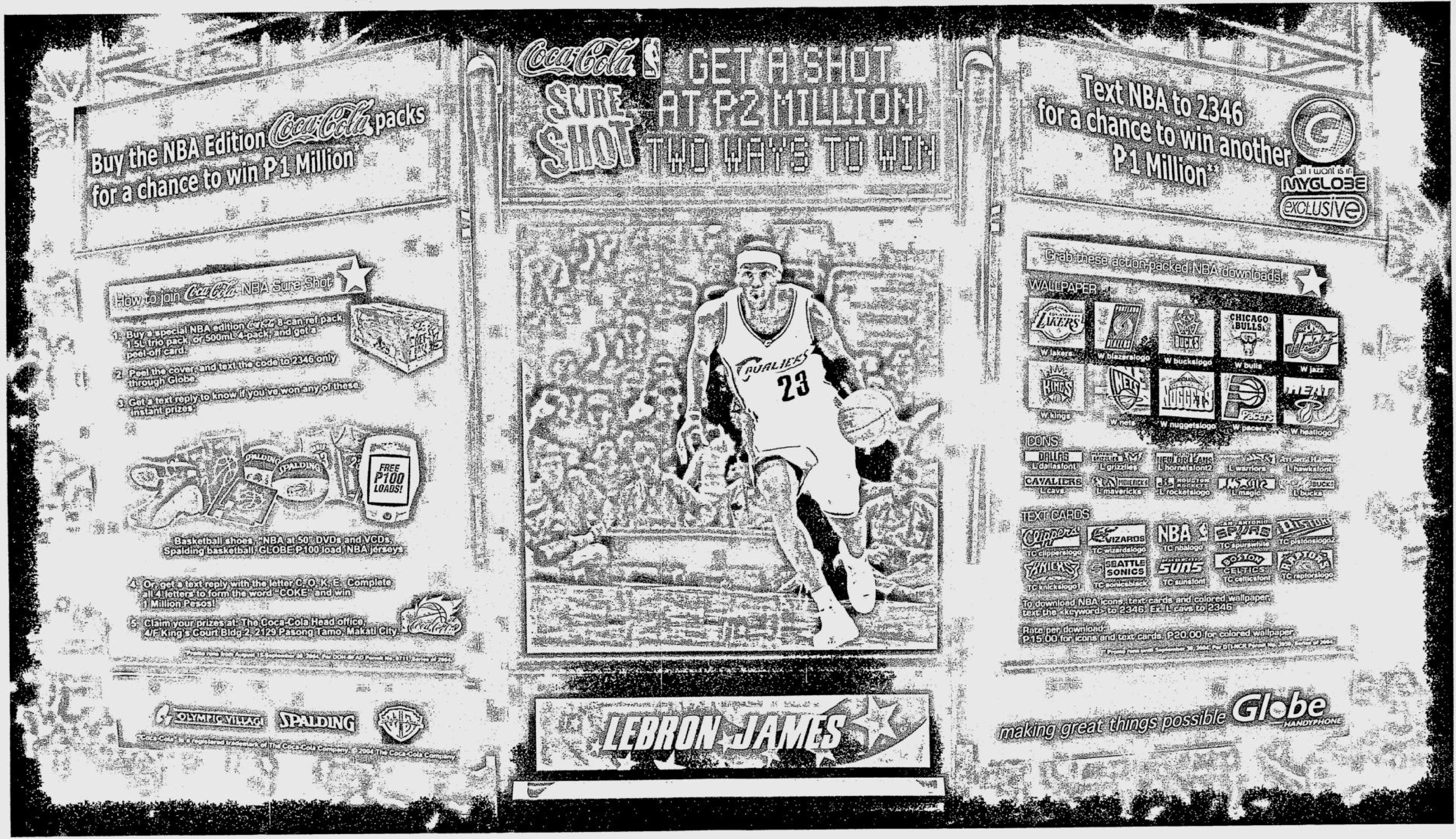

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Beatles' scions benefit from exceptional musical genes

LENNON. Like father, like son.

By Nestor U. Torre

TALENT will out, and so will exceptional performing genes. Take the Beatles and their progeny, many of whom have made names for themselves as musicians, just like their elders.

True, none of them has thus far matched the Beatles' achievements, artistry and fame—but give them time, some of them are only in their 20s.

The late George Harrison's musical scion is Dhani Harrison. He's 25, and a musician. His first name means "rich man" in Hindu.

It should be recalled that George and the other Beatles were once students of transcendental meditation and other expressions of Eastern mysticism, as taught to them by their guru.

Heirs

John Lennon, who is similarly no longer with us, has left two musical sons and heirs—Julian, now 40 years old, and 27-year-old Sean, whose mother is Yoko Ono.

Ringo Starr has two sons, both drummers like him—Zak and Jason. Like their famous dad, they've got rhythm!

Finally, Paul McCartney has a 26-year-old son, James, who's also a musician. But, his most famous offspring is Stella, an innovative fashion designer who counts Gwyneth Paltrow and Madonna among her celebrity clients.

It would be great if the Beatles' musically-inclined offspring could mount a concert paying tribute to their gifted and famous dads, whose songs they would interpret. How about it, second-generation Beatles?

Popular entertainers

On the local entertainment scene, senior singers have similarly sired offspring who have became popular entertainers in their own right:

Gary V has Paolo and Gabriel Valenciano. Hajji Alejandro's daughter, Rachel, is an experienced singer-actress. Pinky Marquez's 17-year-old Karel is busy with TV and live-performance commitments.

Zsa Zsa Padilla's Karylle has also launched a promising show biz career. Rico Puno's Tosca has a husky and expressive singing voice. Mark Gil's son, Gabby Eigenmann, is making a name for himself as a singer-actor.

Second-generation entertainers on the local scene may not benefit as much from their stellar parents' clout as the Beatles' scions, but they also derive their talent from a vital gene pool that practically assures their success in show business.

HARRISON. His first name means "rich man" in Hindu.

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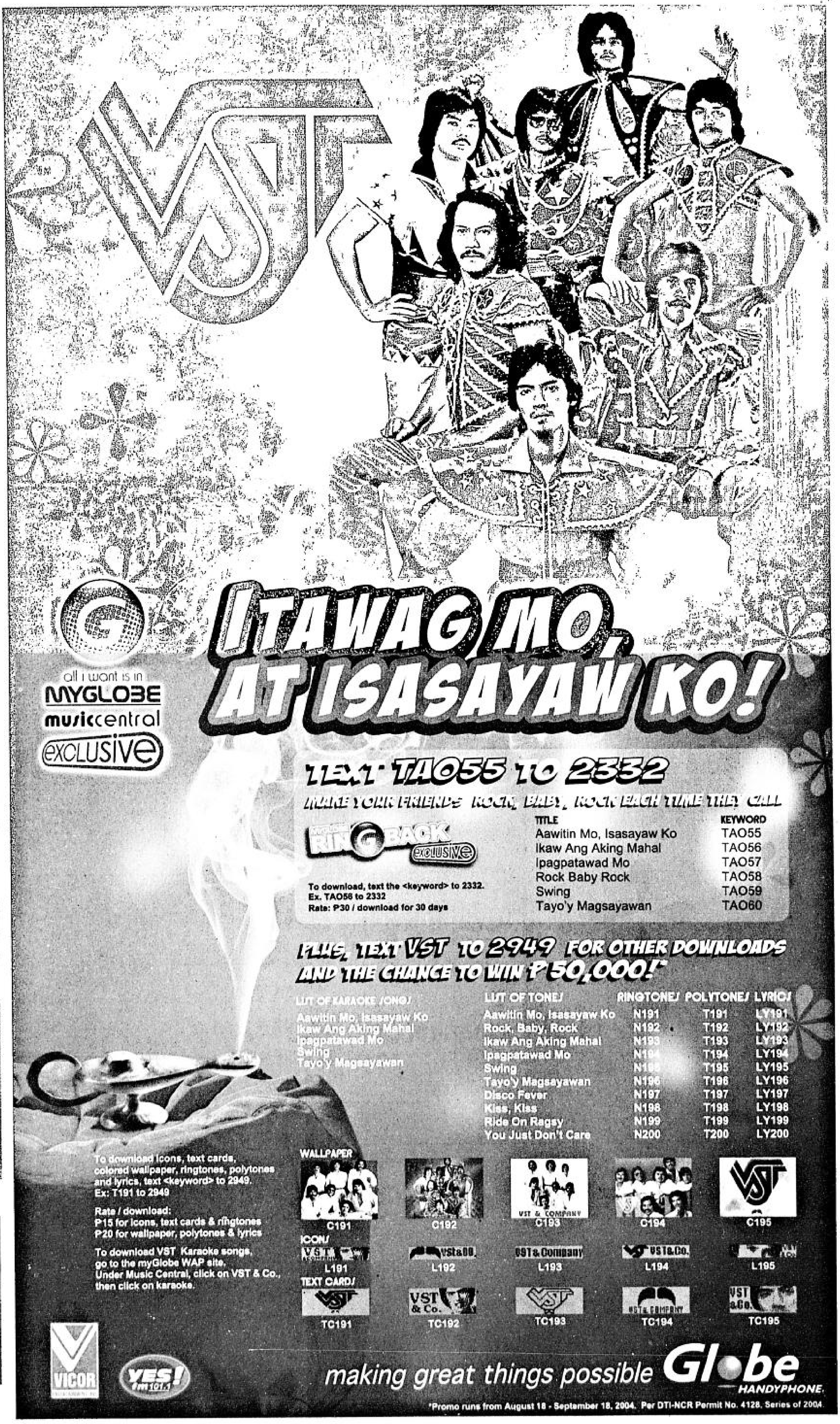

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Ipagpatawad Mo	N194	T194	LY194
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NOW SHOWING

Great comeback for Chito Roño

By Rito P. Asilo

"Feng Shui"

D: Chito Roño
S: Kris Aquino

JENNIFER GARNER AND MARK RUFFALO. Vibrant energy and guileless allure set off a charm offensive.

When a *bagua*, a Chinese *feng shui* mirror that's supposed to bring good luck to its owner, falls into the hands of Joy (Kris Aquino), good things start coming her family's way—husband Inton (Jay Manalo) gets his promotion, and she keeps landing great deals in her networking business. Suddenly, life seems all peachy for Joy. —Well, except for one lingering denouement—Inton's increasingly disturbing, two-timing ways!

Joy soon realizes that the many blessings that come her way are connected to something darker—an evil counterpart.

She traces her "bizarre" luck to the cursed mirror, which apparently brings death and bad luck to whomever looks into it. But, how does she save her family and friends from the diabolical effects of the mysterious mirror? —Or, does she? Is greed stronger than goodwill?

The movie weaves a compelling story that traces the history of the hexed mirror to an ancient practice, the "lotus feet," in Communist China, in which girls' feet are wrapped in iron to stop their growth.

The practice led to a curse, to bewail and avenge its cruelty. (Although, a Chinese friend insists that there is no such thing—she said that the feet were just wrapped in cloth worn to extend the feet vertically, and so on…)

Don't look any farther for a good cinematic scare this week. Chito Roño's masterful foray into the macabre delivers a good dose of chills and thrills, by combining engaging contemporary shock techniques and our penchant for superstition to great effect.

With impressive production values and straightforward storytelling, Roño creates the appropriate doom-and-gloom atmosphere that elevates his film above mainstream Asian horror schlock flicks.

The film isn't without flaws—not the least of the problems is Kris Aquino's "too indicating" performance. She works hard, but her distractingly twitchy facial distortions make it difficult for us to fully empathize with her character.

On the whole, though, with its theatrically sumptuous lighting, an appropriately moody score, and generally good performances (Lotlot de Leon and the kids), the movie is a welcome albeit scary surprise—a great comeback for a good director.

"13 Going On 30"

D: Gary Winick
S: Jennifer Garner, Mark Ruffalo

Twelve-year-old Jenna Rink wants so much to belong to the popular crowd in school. So, she writes their assignments, and endures humiliating put-downs, even ignores her best friend, Matt, just to spice up her unexciting, unremarkable life.

On her 13th birthday, after surviving another embarrassing brush-off from the popular kids, she makes an earnest wish for a life that she's always wanted: Freedom, independence, success.

In short, she wants to be a 30-year-old grown-up—her idea of emancipation from being an awkward teenage outcast in Michael Jackson-era 1987! She reasons: "I don't want to be original, I want to be cool!"

When Jenna wakes up, she realizes that she has skipped 17 years into her future—it's now 2004, and she's the beautiful, successful 30-year-old editor (Jennifer Garner) of her favorite women's magazine!

She finds out that she's friends with Madonna, is thrilled to have "grown" ample breasts, and has a stripteasing hockey player for a boyfriend. And Matt (Mark Ruffalo), now a dashing, baby fat-free photographer whom she hasn't seen in six years, is no longer a friend!

She soon realizes that her adolescent concepts of happiness and success aren't what she'd expected them to be. When Jenna pleads to Matt not to marry his fiancee, he dispenses his concept of life and contentment: "You don't always get the dream house, but you get awfully close."

Yes, the story is thin and predictable. Julia Roberts and Sandra Bullock have mastered similar concepts to perfection, but Garner's vibrant energy and guileless allure set off a charm offensive that will win you over.

She even demonstrates an infectious terpsichorean dexterity when she persuades a party crowd to dance to Michael Jackson's "Thriller" with her—even her boss ("LOTR's" Gollum, Andy Serkis) can't resist! If we were at that party, we would have grooved along with her.

Treatment from stored blood

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

IT has been 15 years since doctors began using umbilical cord blood to treat genetic disorders that affect the blood and immune system, leukemia and cancer.

To date, over 45 diseases have been effectively treated with stem cells from umbilical cord blood.

Filipino health workers now have an opportunity to learn more about stem cell therapy from Dr. Teo Cheng Peng, in a series of lectures about this medical breakthrough.

Specialist

A specialist in hemato-oncology, Dr. Teo is the medical director of StemCord Private Limited of Singapore, a stem cell bank where cord blood can be stored.

Through this facility, families can collect their babies' umbilical cord blood and preserve stem cells, which they can use to fight diseases and injuries. Properly stored in deep freeze, stem cells can remain potent for as long as 21 years.

Dr. Teo's series of talks will begin on Sept. 24 at the Indo-Pacific International Congress, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the University of Santo Tomas.

This will be followed by a

TREATMENT/ A2-3

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Auditions for new Marian musical at CCP

MONTAGE

AT 1 p.m. tomorrow, Sept. 19, auditions will be held at the Dream Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (at the Little Theater lobby) for a new Marian musical written and directed by Nestor. U. Torre, whose past acclaimed musicals include "Magnificat," "Magsimula Ka," "Katy!," "Nasaan si Hesus?" and "Bakhita."

Torre's new Marian musical is on the miraculous Blessed Virgin of Caysasay, the pride of Taal, Batangas, whose shrine in Caysasay has drawn many devotees and supplicants through the centuries, up to this day.

The musical is being presented by the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Taal CHARM Foundation Inc., Blessed Virgin of Caysasay Foundation Inc., and the Taal Heritage Foundation Inc. The project is being spearheaded by Ramon Orlina.

The production will run from Dec. 7 to 11 at the CCP's Little Theater, after which it will be taken on tour. A wide range of parts for singers, actors and dancers is open to auditions, so talents of all ages are welcome.

In particular, however, the production is looking for child singers from six to 10 years old to play important roles in the musical.

Interested talents are asked to call Andy Bais at 780-9210 or 0919 206-5424.

Nickelodeon promotes healthy living and play

The Nickelodeon channel is launching "Let's Just Play!," a nationwide campaign to promote healthy living and the importance of physical activity and play. Basketball player Danny Siegle is featured in one of a series of public service announcements communicating the campaigns' theme on Nickelodeon.

The campaign culminates on Saturday, Oct. 2, as toddlers, tweeners and all Nick fans in the Philippines join other countries in celebrating Worldwide Day of Play at the Adidas Sports Kamp at Bonifacio Global City. The fun begins at 2 p.m.

In an unprecedented move, from 2 to 4 p.m. on Oct. 2, Nickelodeon will preempt its regular programming to air "play" messages. This move encourages kids to switch off their TV sets, get out of the house and play.

And on-line, a "Let's Just Play!" micro site will be launched on www.nicksplat.com/letspaly. It will features health and nutrition information, fun games and tips on sports.

Party packages at Dreamscape

The Dreamscape family entertainment center at Robinson's Galleria offers Corporate Christmas Party Packages this Yuletide season for up to 1,000 guests.

Food concessionaires offer party menus, and Dreamscape takes care of the entertainment—magicians, jugglers, acrobats, unicyclists, bubble show, mad science, mascots, Santa Claus—choose your wild!

And the entertainment center has exciting rides like the Super Sonic V roller coaster, Dream Wheel Ferris wheel, Speed Bugs bump cars, Grand Parade Carousel, and Roaring Rapids. Call 636-2911 or 633-7641, locals 193 to 200.

AUDITIONS/ A2-5

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM SEPT 18 - SEPT 24

CH	[illegible]	4	[illegible]	7	9	13	23	25	29
[illegible]	6 30 Star in A Million 7:30 TV Patrol 8 00 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 9 00 Home Along da Airport 10 00 Victim 11 00 Kontrobersyal 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6 00 National Geographic 7 00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8.00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player	6 00 Asian 9 Ball 7 00 Viva Box Office *Sheman, Mistress of the Universe* 9.00 Sing Galing 10 00 Maverick & Ariel 10 30 ABC Treats *Bridge to Elephunk: Black Eyed Peas*	5:30 Pinoy Pop Superstar 6 30 Bitoy's Funniest Videos 7:30 Extra Challenge 8:15 Imbestigador 9:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 11:10 Kakabakaba Adventures	6 00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7.00 7 Days 8 00 John Doe 9 00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11.00 PGMA	6 00 Jobs and Visa Central 7 00 Bitag 8 00 Ugnayang Pambansa 9 00 D E N R 10 00 El Shaddai	6 00 Sports TV 6 30 Game Plan 7 00 7th Heaven 7 50 Boston Public 8 40 America's Next Top Model 9 30 Studio 23 Presents 11 15 Reel Deel	6 00 Agila Reports 6 30 Screen Savers 7 30 Euromaxx 8 00 Car Guys 8 30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Ang Tamang Daan 10 00 Pasugo	6 00 RJ Music Videos 9 00 Music Videos 10 00 Music Videos 11 00 Music Videos
[illegible]	5 30 Rated K-Handa Ka Na Ba? 7.00 Wansapanataym 8 30 Tanging Ina 9 30 Sunday Family Cinema 11 30 The Weekend News	6 00 15th Mitsubishi Lancer Int'l Juniors Tennis Championships 9 00 Go For Gold 11 00 Unlimited Diving	5 00 Best of PBA Games 7.00 Viva Cine Idols *Tang-its* 9 00 Fear Factor 10 00 ABC Onstage *Pinoy Rock Bands*	6:00 Partners Mel & Jay 7:30 KI The P1 Million Videoke Challenge 9 00 Daddy Di Do Du 10:00 Sunday Night Box Office	6 00 Smack Down Wrestling 7 00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8 00 May Puso ang Balas 9 00 Sunday's Big Event 11 00 URRC TV	6 00 Home Shopping Network 7 00 Legacy of Hero 8 00 Pemsea 9 00 In This Corner 10 00 Global Family Series 10 30 El Shaddai	6 00 Nginig 7 00 The Amazing Race 8 00 Two & a Half Men 8 30 Just Shoot Me 9 00 Will & Grace 9 30 F 10 15 Digital Tour 10 45 The Bachelor 2	6 00 Captured 6 30 Fresh Gear 7 00 Convergence 7 30 Euromaxx 8 00 New Yankee Workshop 8 30 DWTV Journal 9 00 Ang Tamang Daan 10 00 Ang Iglesia ni Cristo	6 00 RJ Music Videos 9 00 Music Videos 10 00 Music Videos 11 00 Music Videos
[illegible]	6 00 TV Patrol 7 00 Victim Extreme 7 45 Marina 8 15 Basta't Kasama Kita 8 45 Hiram 9 15 It Might Be You 9 45 OK Fine! Whatever 11 00 Insider 11 30 The Correspondents	6 00 Concert at the Park 7.00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player 8 00 TeleDyaryo 10 00 Dial M	5 30 Sentro 7 00 Gagsters 7 30 Friends 8 00 The Apprentice 9 00 Crouching Tiger 9 30 Big News 10 00 Diretsahan 10 30 The Outsiders 11 30 Billboard On-Air	6 00 24 Oras 7 00 Extra Challenge 7:45 Mulawin 8:30 Te Amo 9 00 Marinara 9.30 Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita 11·15 Saksi 11.45 I-Witness	6 00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7 00 Just for Laffs 8 00 Jag 9 00 The Agency 10 00 Newswatch Now 10 30 Sex & the City 11 00 Atelier	6 00 Home Shopping Network 6 30 Pemsea 7 00 WWE Smackdown 8 00 D E N R 9 00 Japan Video Topic 10 00 Land Admin Project 10 30 IBC News Tonite 11 00 Linawin Natin	6 00 Batman Animated 6 30 Samurai Deeper Kyo 7 00 Wazzup, Wazzup 7 30 World's Craziest Videos 8 00 Jake 2 0 9 00 Charmed 10 00 News Central 10 30 Oprah 11 30 Travel Time	6 00 Net 25 Report 6 30 World Report Filipino Edition 7 00 Openline 7 30 Euromaxx 8 00 Convergence 8 30 DWTV Journal 9 00 Ang Tamang Daan 10 00 Pasugo	6 00 RJ Music Videos 9 00 Music Videos 10 00 Music Videos 11 00 Music Videos
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[illegible]	6 00 TV Patrol 7 00 Victim Extreme 7 45 Marina 8 15 Basta't Kasama Kita 8 45 Hiram 9 15 It Might Be You 9 45 Yes Yes Show 11 00 Insider 11 30 Special Assignment	6 00 Family Rosary Crusade 7.00 Search for the 1st Tanduay Billiards Player 8 00 TeleDyaryo 10 00 Paco Park Presents 11.00 Quantum	5 30 Sentro 7.00 Greatest Fights of the Century 8 00 Fearless Fighting 9 00 Crouching Tiger 9 30 Big News 10 00 Diretsahan 10 30 The Outsiders 11 30 Billboard On-Air	6 00 24 Oras 7 00 Extra Challenge 7 45 Mulawin 8 30 Te Amo 9 00 Marinara 9 30 Nuts Entertainment 11 15 Saksi 11 45 Jessica Soho Reports	6 00 Invader Zim 6 30 Entertainment Tonight 7 00 Malcolm in the Middle 7 30 Still Standing 8 00 8 Simple Rules 8 30 Scrubs 9 00 Everwood 10 00 Newswatch Now 10 30 Girls Behaving Badly 11 00 Road Trip	6 00 Home Shopping Network 6 30 Retro TV 7 00 Japan Video Topic 8 00 Global Family Series 9 00 Linawin Natin 10 00 BYK 101 10 30 IBC News Tonite 11 00 Breaking Barriers	6 00 Amazing Race 7 00 Wazzup, Wazzup 7 30 Mr Bean Live Series 8 00 CSI 9 00 Alias 10 00 News Central 10 30 Oprah 11 30 Spin City	6 00 Net 25 Report 6 30 World Report Filipino Edition 7 00 Openline 7 30 Euromaxx 8 00 Fresh Gear 8 30 DWTV Journal 9 00 Ang Tamang Daan 10 00 The Message	6 00 RJ Music Videos 9 00 Music Videos 10 00 Music Videos 11 00 Music Videos
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Ryan tells young musical artists how to succeed

By Nestor U. Torre

THE 2004 Gawad CCP para sa Sining awards rites were held two Wednesdays ago at the Cultural Center's Main Theater. The hall was filled with relatives, friends and admirers of the 12 individual artists and arts organizations given the prized honor that night—Eddie Elejar, Ryan Cayabyab, Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, Peque Gallaga, Cheche Lazaro, the late Santiago Bose, Rene Villanueva, Francisco Mañosa, the late Doreen Fernandez, Antonio O. Cojuangco, Barasoain Kalinangan Foundation and Mindulani, Inc.

After receiving the award, each awardee had a heartfelt message to impart. The best-received response was made by the Gawad CCP awardee for music Ryan Cayabyab.

CAYABYAB. Best-received response.

Template

We're reproducing his message here, because it can serve as a template for young artists to use, to similarly succeed in the artistic field of their choice. Take it from the master!:

Maraming salamat po. Mayroon lamang akong nais ibahagi sa inyo:

Ang mga natutunan ko hanggang kahapon bilang isang manunulat ng musika—

1. Walang mangyayari kung nakatitig ka lang sa labas ng bintana habang naghihintay ng inspirasyon. Malimit na ito ay hindi dumarating.

2. Kapag mayroon ka nang naumpisahan, tapusin mo.

3. Kapag may pumansin sa nilikha mo, dalawang bagay lang ang gagawin mo: una, kung ito ay pinuri, ngumiti ka; pangalawa, pag ito'y binatikos, humalakhak ka. Huwag mong pakawalan ang iyong bait. Mabuti nga't napansin ang likha mo!

4. Lumikha ka lang ng lumikha. Tumigil ka lang pag patay ka na!

5. Huwag mong liliitin ang mga nilikha mo. Minsan, ito ay may kapangyarihan na hindi mo matalos.

6. Sa kabilang dako naman, huwag ka nang magmalaki. Maraming mas magaling kaysa sa iyo—kung hindi ngayon, sa mga darating pang panahon!

7. Hindi sa iyo ang mga nilikha mo. Ginagamit ka lang na isang daan upang mailarawan mo ang kalagayan ng iyong kapanahunan at kapaligiran.

8. Magpasalamat ka sa mga taong nagpakita sa iyo ng daan.

9. Magpasalamat ka sa bayan na iyong kinalakhan.

10. Magpasalamat ka sa Diyos dahil ikaw ay humihinga at ikaw ay isang alagad ng sining!

May pahabol pang isa: Hangga't maaari, huwag ka nang magsalita, tugtugin mo na lang!

Salamat sa aking pamilya—unang una, sa mga magulang ko, mga kapatid ko, kay Emy, asawa ko; Krina at Toma, mga anak ko; mga kamag-anak ko, mga guro, mga kaibigan at mga kabalikat sa industriya.

Maraming salamat, Gawad CCP para sa Sining. At malaking pasasalamat ko sa San Miguel Corporation na naniniwala sa aking kakayahang maisakatuparan at makatulong sa pag-unlad ng musikang Pilipino. Magandang gabi at mabuhay tayong lahat!

Quest for enlightenment

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

LIFE in this material world is a struggle because we are always confronted with difficulties.

Some people believe that, if they could migrate to a different place, their life would be better off, because they could earn and buy more material things.

But, despite this, there are realities we can't escape from. In every nook and cranny of this planet, four miseries exist—birth, disease, old age and death.

Delivering a baby is painful regardless of location. People get cancer, heart disease and flu no matter which continent you live on. In old age, aches and pains will always be constant companions. No matter how much you run or jog, debilitation creeps in like an unwanted intruder. First, the intruder weakens your physical defenses. Then, he steals everything you've got at the time of death—and you're thrown into a whole different dimension!

Parents

Lord Buddha lived in a grand palace. His parents purposely sheltered him from seeing any type of misery. When he grew up as a youth, he saw a sick man, an old man and a dead man. Each time, he asked, "What is that?" And, when told about the reality of diseases, old age and death, he inquired: "Is that also going to happen to me?" The answer was yes.

Lord Buddha did not reject the truth, nor did he run away from it. He left his palatial home and sought out solutions to the inevitable problems of life.

Unlike Lord Buddha, most people want to build palatial homes to live in. They want to forget the miseries. Everytime they are confronted with the harsh realities of life, they get frustrated and angry. They say, "Don't tell me. I don't want to know!" For them, ignorance is bliss.

Wise people want to know the truth. There are solutions to the problems of life. Everyone can achieve wisdom, real happiness and peace. We don't need material wealth or intelligence to learn the Absolute Truth.

Age of chaos

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu taught that the easiest and simplest way to achieve enlightenment in this age of chaos is through meditation on the holy names of God. By doing this, a person achieves love.

Life may be a struggle but it is worth living when our life is placed in the caring hands of God. Under the protection of the Supreme, there is no crisis that can crush our hearts or ruin our lives.

Email lotuspond108@hotmail.com

Treatment . . .

From page A2-2

public symposium at 7 p.m. on Sept. 25 at the grand ballroom of the Century Park Hotel. Open to pregnant women, obstetricians and gynecologists. Call StemCord Philippines at 373-3311 to 18 or 373-7359.

Patients

On Sept. 28, Dr. Teo will talk at the Women in Media Bulong-Pulungan at the Westin Philippine Plaza. The panel will include Filipino physicians Rebecca B. Singson and Lora Tansengco, both of whom have started collecting cord blood from their own patients for banking.

The procedure of banking poses no risk to both mother and baby, as cord blood is collected only after the baby is delivered, and after the umbilicial cord has been clamped and cut.

For particulars, call Phoebe Tsai Te at 0918 918-0329.

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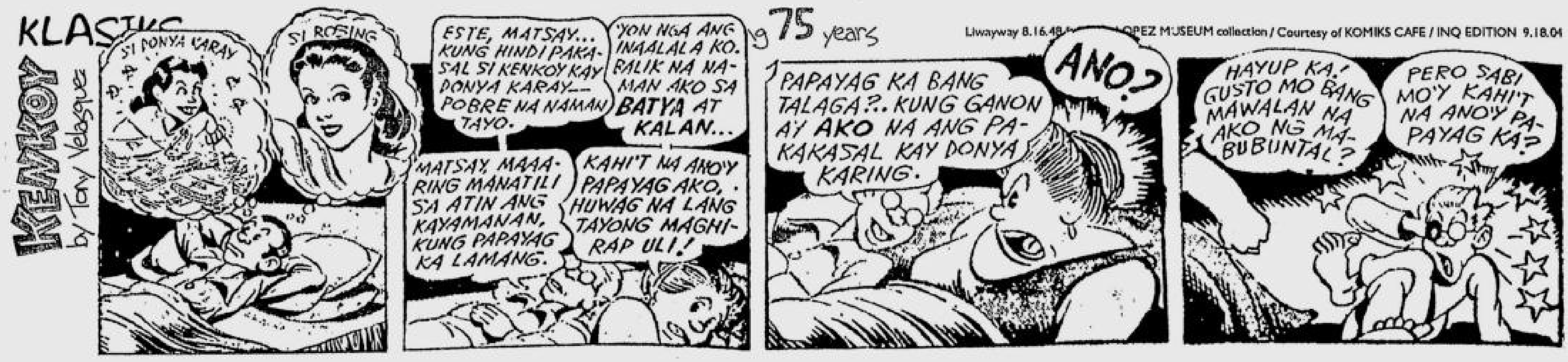

KLASIKS
75 years
KENKOY by Tony Velasquez
SI DONYA KARAY
SI ROSING
ESTE, MATSAY... KUNG HINDI PAKASAL SI KENKOY KAY DONYA KARAY— POBRE NA NAMAN TAYO.
'YON NGA ANG INAALALA KO. BALIK NA NAMAN AKO SA BATYA AT KALAN...
MATSAY, MAAARING MANATILI SA ATIN ANG KAYAMANAN, KUNG PAPAYAG KA LAMANG.
KAHI'T NA ANO'Y PAPAYAG AKO. HUWAG NA LANG TAYONG MAGHIRAP ULI!
PAPAYAG KA BANG TALAGA?.. KUNG GANON AY AKO NA ANG PAKAKASAL KAY DONYA KARING.
ANO?
HAYUP KA! GUSTO MO BANG MAWALAN NA AKO NG MABUBUNTAL?
PERO SABI MO'Y KAHI'T NA ANO'Y PAPAYAG KA?

Liwayway 8.16.48 / LOPEZ MUSEUM collection / Courtesy of KOMIKS CAFE / INQ EDITION 9.18.04

Latest album proves The Cure is here to stay

By Noelani Torre

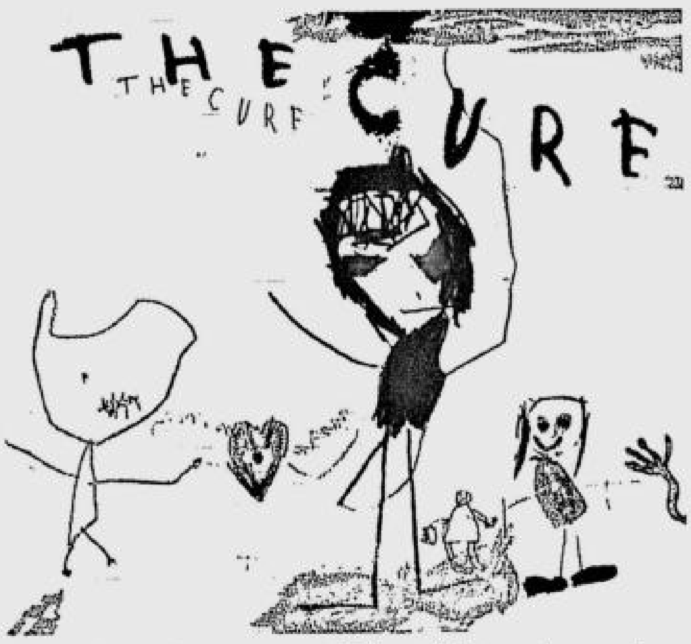
THE CURE has been with us for 25 years now. For half that time, frontman Robert Smith has been telling us that this is absolutely the very last record they're going to do, folks; that this is the end of the Cure, etc. Nobody's fallen for that line in years—and it *is* just a line, as has been proven by the recent release of the band's 13th album, "The Cure" (I Am/Universal).

Still, it seems that Smith was seriously considering it four years ago, after they released the deliberately gloomy and disappointingly stodgy Dark Trilogy ender, "Bloodflowers."

Adamant

"When we did the Trilogy thing," says Smith in a VH1 interview, "I thought, 'This is it.' It was the end of the 25 years, and I was adamant that the next thing I would do would be my solo album, and the others were expecting that, too." He changed his mind, however, when he met producer Ross Robinson (Korn, Slipknot), who turned out to be a huge Cure fan.

"I knew after that first day of talking to him that I wanted to work with him," Smith recounts. "He reawakened the old passion for The Cure that was dormant in me; he reminded me why people love what we do so much."



BAND'S latest album represents all the stylistic turns the group has taken through the years.

The band had never worked with a producer before, and fans were nervous about what sort of wrench Robinson would throw into the distinctive, if not always well-oiled Cure machine. They needn't have worried—Robinson, as "The Cure" will prove, is a more than capable producer, and he has succeeded in making the Cure sound refreshed and sincere once more.

Though we're not what you'd consider faithful fans, we're nevertheless familiar with the group's multi-directional oeuvre, and "The Cure," believe it or not, actually manages to represent all the stylistic turns that the band has taken through the years.

Hence, you'll find doom and gloom in such tracks as the 10-minute long "The Promise," rage in "Us or Them," and frothy pop in the catchy first single, "The End of the World."

Innovation

There isn't much innovation to be found here. Most of the songs will no doubt remind you of their earlier works (they have always been their own biggest competitors), but as a reminder of all things good about the Cure (and there are a lot), it works.

"The Cure" is a nicely calculated move on Smith's part, given the renewed attention that the Cure has been getting recently. A number of critically respected young bands (The Rapture, The Deftones, Interpol, Sparta, AFI) have been singing the pioneering band's praises to their own fans—and Smith and company have found themselves in fashion again.

Of course, they could have just released a greatest hits CD, as older bands are wont to do, but it wouldn't have been as satisfying as this. "The Cure" shows us that the band that fathered goth has no plans of giving up its throne to the next generation.

'CARNIVALE'

Intriguing fusion of religion and the occult

By Rito P. Asilo

STAHL AND BROWN. Lead cast of HBO's groundbreaking series.

WE flew to Singapore last week to interview Daniel Knauf, creator/executive producer, and Clancy Brown ("Shawshank Redemption"), lead star, of the highly-anticipated Emmy-nominated HBO original series, "Carnivale," which will premiere on Oct. 10, Sunday, at 8 p.m.

HBO, known for its groundbreaking shows like "Sex and the City" and "Six Feet Under," is leaving no stone unturned to drum up interest in its latest series.

During our stay in Singapore, we also previewed the first two episodes of the first season, and we were quite impressed with the scope and topnotch production values of the new show.

Unpredictable

Quirky and consistently unpredictable, "Carnivale," whose cast includes Nick Stahl ("Terminator 3") and Clea Duvall, resonates with its intriguing fusion of religious fanaticism, spirituality and the occult—think David Lynch and David Cronenberg collaborating on a project.

Set in the '30s, a time deemed as the "last great age of magic" before the evils of Nazism engulfed the world's consciousness, "Carnivale" follows a traveling carnival full of colorful characters: the midget carnival boss (Michael Anderson), a lizard man, a blind mentalist, a tarot card reader and her catatonic mother, etc. These people act as pawns in a smoldering war between good and evil.

"Initially, I wanted a post-apocalyptic show that would mirror the universal experience. I wrote the first draft in 1991. But, I knew that I was biting off more than I could chew. The first act was already 180 pages long, and was equivalent to a five-hour movie!," explains Knauf.

"I soon realized that the experiences of the characters we explored in the series would be more relevant to the social climate of the '30s. That's when the story development took great strides."

Thematic devices

Beneath the intriguing story and the quirky characters in the series, what message does he want to impart to his TV audience? Knauf answers, "I'm not a big fan of messages. I used no overt thematic devices. I just wanted to tell a ripping good story." Based on the number of Emmy nominations it recently copped, it looks like Knauf is doing just that.

For his part, the 45-year-old theater-trained actor, Clancy Brown, best known for his Kurgan character in "Highlander," who plays Brother Justin in "Carnivale," says that he was drawn to how complex his character was written: "Brother Justin is immature—he is a man in crisis. I was attracted to his psychological dilemma, his confusion, and his struggle for his place in life." ***(To be concluded)***

Tessie Tomas prefers sitcoms over 'telenovelas'

TOMAS. Acting in comedies relaxes her.

By Remy Umerez

TESSIE Tomas makes her small-screen comeback on GMA's newest sitcom, "Bahay Mo Ba 'To?"

She explains why she signed up with GMA:

"After reviewing my options with the other network, I decided to do a sitcom with GMA because comedy is what I enjoy doing most. ABS-CBN wanted to cast me in another soap. *Ayoko na.* How can I preserve my beauty *kung ihuhulog ako sa bangin o kung babrilin ako?*

Once a week

I don't want to stress myself too much. The sitcom requires me to tape only once a week. Comedy relaxes me," she explains.

Extended families

Tessie's new show, "Bahay Mo Ba 'To?," is about extended families. In it, she plays Baby Mulingtapang-Benoit, the better-off sibling who owns half the ancestral house.

Her character is proud, vain and tightfisted. Baby is married to an Italian-French guy, who sends her a monthly allowance. She makes sure that her side of the house looks better than the side tended by her poorer brother, Nene . (Ronaldo Valdez).

Tessie enjoys the company of GMA talents (Dino Guevarra, Chynna Ortaleza, Starstruck kids Gabriel and Bea, Wendell Ramos, Sherilyn Reyes).

Jargon

"I learn from them in terms of the jargon used by the text generation. As a comedienne, *ayokong napag-iiwanan ako ng panahon,*" she states.

Whenever she has time, Tessie visits comedy bars to check out the kind of comedy these establishments offer.

Tessie dispels the rumors that she and husband Roger Pullin are migrating. She insists that their trips are merely vacations they have long planned for.

Reality TV tells unvarnished truth

By Nestor U. Torre

MY cable service doesn't carry the Reality TV channel, so it was only in a hotel in Bicol that I was finally able to get acquainted with the channel. It was a good albeit belated introduction, and before I knew it, I was viewing Reality TV for hours on end.

In the process, I discovered that many of the so-called "reality" shows we see on other channels are either incorrectly named, or half-baked versions of the *real* real stuff.

Authentic

As the Reality TV channel's station promo puts it, its programs are authentic because they have no script, no direction, no actors—nothing but the real event itself, involving people who play themselves.

So, what viewers get is the unvarnished truth, which makes it possible for them to experience the veracity and power of the old saying, "Fact is stranger than fiction."

—And, not just stranger, but also more striking, truthful, revelatory of human nature, or the power of the natural forces that God has put in awesome and perfect motion in His Creation.

Contrast it with the half-baked versions on other channels, which are overly dramatized and produced for "greater" impact. Ironically, the interfering hand soon betrays its intrusion, and the effect is thus less convincing and insightful than the shows on the Reality TV channel.

—Which goes to show what happens when some people can't leave well enough alone!

From this observed contrast, I learned that, for Reality TV to remain true to its strengths and intentions, its show's staffers should be documentarists, not from the world of entertainment television.

The two fields are very different in attitude, intent and work ethic—which explains why some local reality programs look so tainted by manipulation: They are produced by "entertainment" people, who can't change their approach, and still try to "enhance" the reality content of their shows.

On the other hand, the programs we watched on the Reality TV channel in our hotel room in Legazpi were scrupulous about presenting fact as fact, with no distracting or compromising element of fiction or fancy.

Concentration

Sure, the shows were produced, edited and focused, but there were no artificial sweeteners or cliffhangers, and the concentration was on letting the events and protagonists speak for themselves.

A wide range of experiences was tackled by the programs we saw, but the best were those medical "miracles," and on the inspiring lives of "ordinary" people who had surmounted great challenges and tragedies.

Those shows were particularly affecting *because* they were unembellished, so you got the bad with the good, the harsh downers as well as the triumphs.

This non-manipulative but still inspiring view of life is what makes the Reality TV channel's offerings so special, and if our cable service doesn't add it to its list of channels soon, we're changing our supplier!

Bibeth and Madz, theater professionals

By Behn Cervantes

UPON the declaration of Martial Law, student organizations were not allowed to operate for fear that they would breed activists. I reorganized the UP Repertory Company on the pretext that the group could sponsor productions of theater courses in acting, directing and theater history. Readily approved by student affairs dean Armando Malay, it was the first student organization at UP after Sept. 21, 1972.

Enthusiastic

I had a very enthusiastic group of students. They decided to stage excerpts from plays dealing with the evils of dictatorship and related topics of political suppression. The assorted dramatic statements were culled for a show called "Bato Bato sa Langit...(Ang Matamaan, Huwag Magalit!)" The revived UP Rep soon had ardent followers.

Cast in an excerpt of "Caligula" was one wild-haired *morena* with an outgoing personality. Elizabeth Orteza quickly became a fixture in UP Rep productions. She was often outwitting the men and noisily gossiping with the women. She had name recall because "Elizabeth" brought *la* Oropesa to mind. Besides, like her namesake, Bibeth was frontally advantaged!

Writing

Her interest in theater included writing, but because she had experience in Christian youth groups, Bibeth was organized, and was a good follower. Before long, she became a popular leader.

But, she didn't blossom into a comedienne until she worked for Lyca Benitez, in whose morning show she created her *Bisaya* character.

There was more to come in the horizon. While appearing in Rep plays like "Beatas" and "Larawan," she became a television personality and a writer of prize-winning screenplays, working tirelessly because she was selflessly sending siblings to school—including a brother to medical school!

Projects

Today, she ventures into conjugal cinematic projects with director-husband Carlitos Siguion Reyna.

Coming after Bibeth at UP Rep was another conscientious young lady from Quezon. Madeleine Nicolas was Madz to everyone. Since all Rep members were active in organizational work, Mads effectively employed her Girl Scout experience and work ethic in Rep projects.

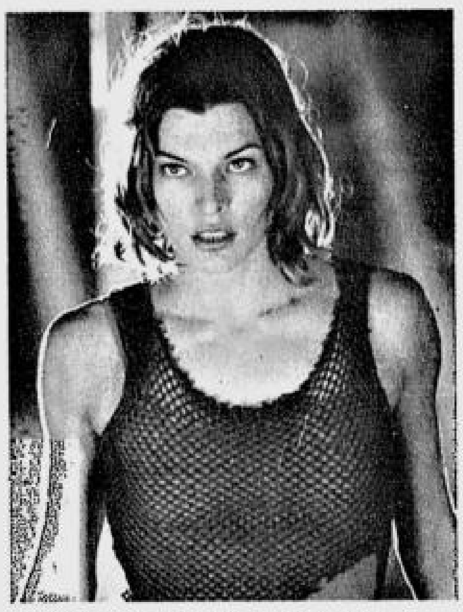
But, her real interest was in acting, so she participated in most productions, be they comedy, drama or proletarian drama.

She was adept at all three, but she was especially memorable in "Panahon ni Cristy," where she performed with guest actors Cris Vertido, Tommy Abuel and Nanding Josef.

Office job

After college, she continued her theater aspirations, working first in the staff of the Metropolitan Theater before she transferred to the Performing Arts department of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Like many other serious actors, she combined acting with an office job.

Like Bibeth, Madz has expanded her interest by delving in scriptwriting, where she applies herself with the same dedication, focus and sincerity. She is regularly seen in television dramas and critically-acclaimed films megged by directors who are familiar with her impressive theater credentials.



JOVOVICH. Leads cast of zombie sequel.

'Resident Evil: Apocalypse' captures box-office crown

LOS ANGELES—"Resident Evil: Apocalypse" climbed over a pile of zombie bodies and came out on top of the box office with $23 million.

The cell-phone thriller, "Cellular," debuted at No. 2, with $10.1 million.

Top 10

The top 10 movies at North American theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. and Nielsen EDI Inc. are:

1. "Resident Evil: Apocalypse," Screen Gems, $23,036,273, $23,036,273, one week.
2. "Cellular," New Line, $10,100,571, $10,100,571, one week.
3. "Without a Paddle," Paramount, $4,512,552, $45,518,563, four weeks.
4. "Hero," Miramax, $4,420,702, $41,652,507, three weeks.
5. "The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement," Disney, $2,932,938, $89,259,246, five weeks.
6. "Anacondas: The Hunt For the Blood Orchid," Screen Gems, $2,807,475, $27,578,480, three weeks.
7. "Paparazzi," Fox, $2,771,056, $12,005,971, two weeks.
8. "Collateral," DreamWorks, $2,718,073, $92,691,776, six weeks.
9. "Vanity Fair," Focus Features, $2,613,777, $11,096,102, two weeks.
10. "Napoleon Dynamite," Fox Searchlight, $2,516,879, $30,294,397, 14 weeks. *AP*

Auditions

From page A2-2

Symposium on Human Genetics

A scientific symposium on Human Genetics will be held at 2 p.m. on Sept. 23 at the UP Manila University Library Conference Hall.

In addition, the libraries of Philippine Human Genetics pioneers Dr. Flora M. Pascasio and Dr. Teresita K. Briones will be turned over to the UP Manila University Library. Call 924-0865.

Speakers at the symposium: Catherine Lynn Silao on "Biomarkers for Cancer," with reactors Gemiliano D. Aligui and Beatriz J. Tiangco. Lilian V. Lee and Sonia

AUDITIONS/ A2-7

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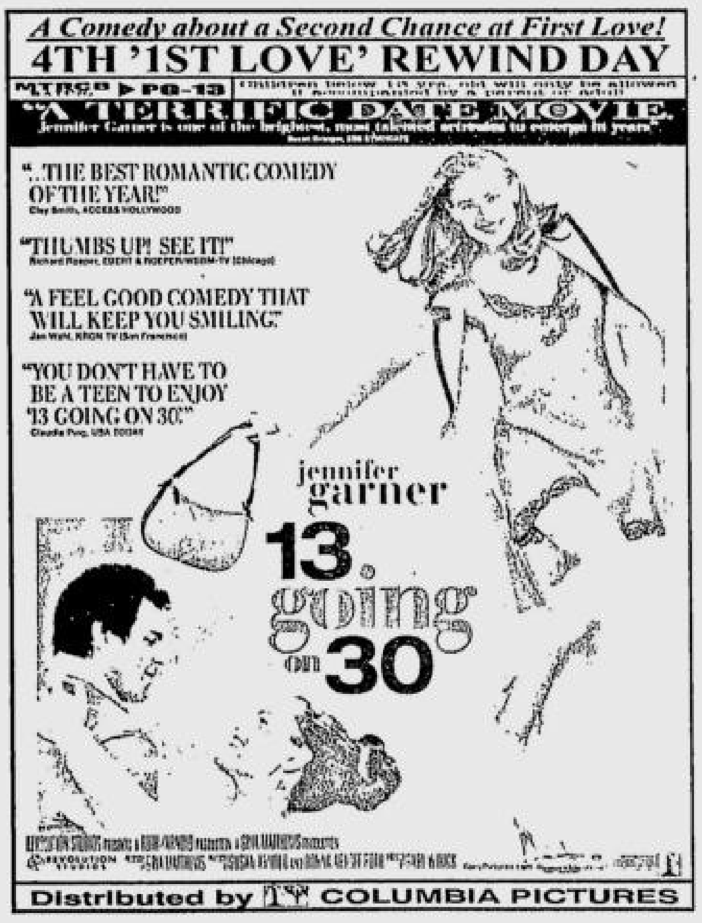
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PACINO. Tortured rendering.

Pacino draws Oscar buzz in compelling 'Merchant of Venice'

TORONTO—William Shakespeare may have shuffled off this mortal coil 400 years ago, but his take on fundamentalism has warnings for today, in a new movie version of "The Merchant of Venice," starring Al Pacino.

The film is already drawing whispers of Oscar potential for Pacino's tortured rendering of Shylock, the money lender—and its North American release was set for late this year to meet Academy Award 2005 requirements.

"The Merchant of Venice," a tale of romance and revenge, is one of the Bard's most popular plays, yet until now it never made it to the big screen, though Orson Welles had hoped to film it.

Battle of vengeance

English director Michael Radford sets the battle of vengeance between Shylock, the moneylender, and the merchant Antonio in a dark and heaving Venice, a mine of distrust, torn between extreme Christianity and Judaism.

Co-star Jeremy Irons said the film, which had a North American premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival, shows "what happens if you take fundamentalism to the nth degree. We seem to be living in a world that is more and more fundamentalist, people are polarizing themselves more and more."

The play still resonates in a modern world plagued by radicalism and misunderstandings between religions: "It is about two cultures that don't understand each other," Radford said.

Accusations

Productions of "The Merchant of Venice" often spark accusations of anti-Semitism, as Shylock, as demonized by his enemies, is a stereotype of a vindictive and greedy Jew.

The plot hangs on Shylock's demand for the letter of the law on a bond which offers him a pound of Antonio's flesh, once a loan to the merchant is forfeited.

But, Shakespeare also portrays Shylock and his tribe as unjustly persecuted in the famous "if you prick us, do we not bleed" speech.

Pacino, kept from Toronto by filming commitments, offers a growling Shylock, broken and humiliated at the end of the movie, which dispenses with much of the unfathomable comedic scenes of the play.

Shakespeare enthusiast

Best known for his roles in "Scarface" and "The Godfather," Pacino is a lifelong Shakespeare enthusiast and once made "Looking for Richard" about the play "Richard III."

"People don't want to do Shakespeare, they are afraid," Pacino told the London Times at the Venice Film Festival, where due to a clerical error, he was locked out of the movie premiere.

"We have a tendency to close off when we don't understand something. If we were made to feel more open and not afraid, we'd be able to experience it more."

Even with Pacino on board, the "Merchant of Venice" was a hard sell to Hollywood financers, said co-producer Cary Brokaw.

Anti-Semitic aspect

"There was a lot of skepticism about doing this movie, largely because of the anti-Semitic aspect to it," he said.

Playing opposite Pacino, Irons draws on a rich career on the English stage for his portrayal of Antonio, imbuing his speeches with the rhythm of modern conversation.

Joseph Fiennes plays Bassanio, locked with Antonio in a 16th-century love triangle with Portia, a beautiful maiden he woos with the help of the ill-fated loan Antonio secured from Shylock.

The movie introduces Texas-born novice Lynn Collins, who as a teenager, once attended a Shakespeare masterclass at Oxford University. *AFP*

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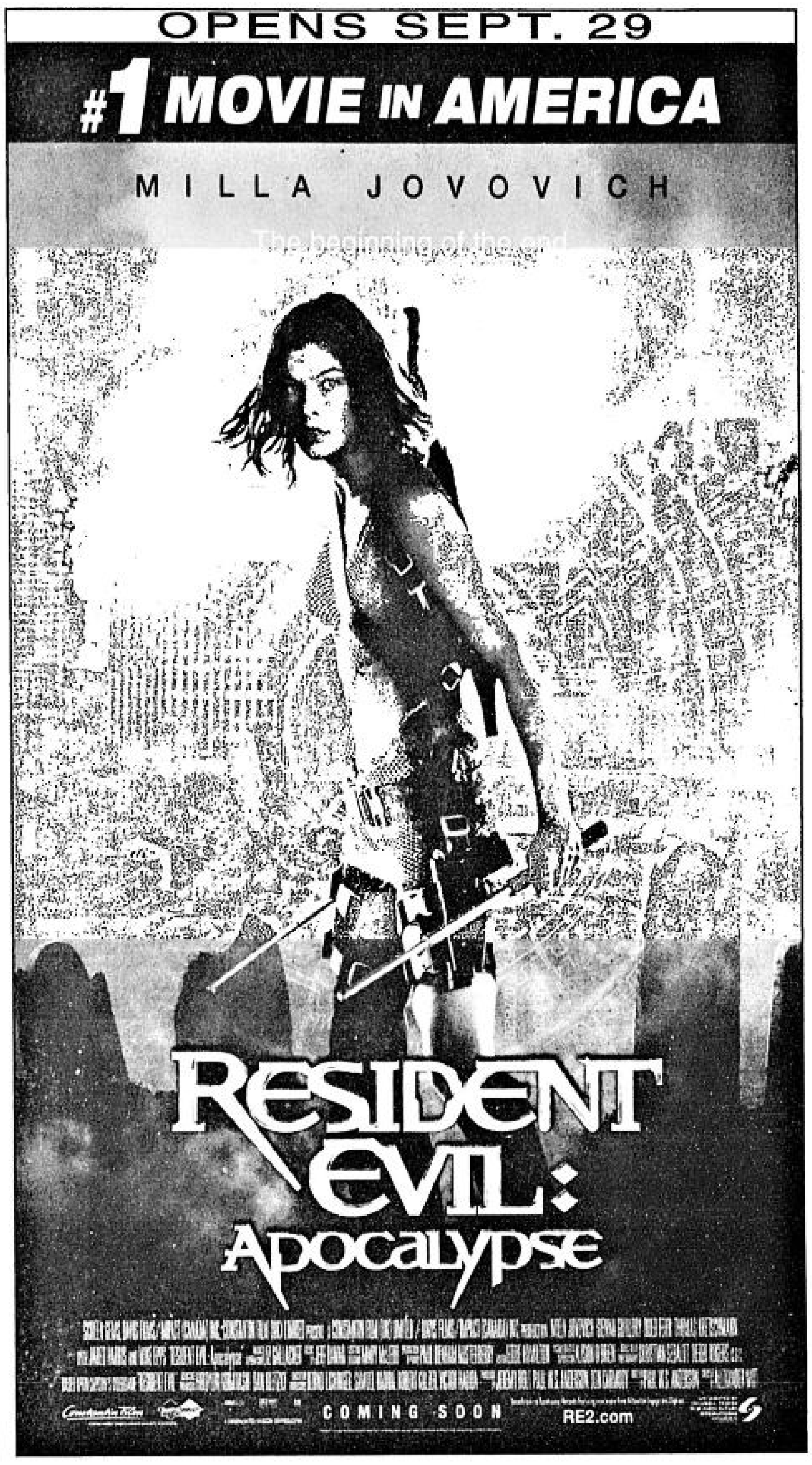

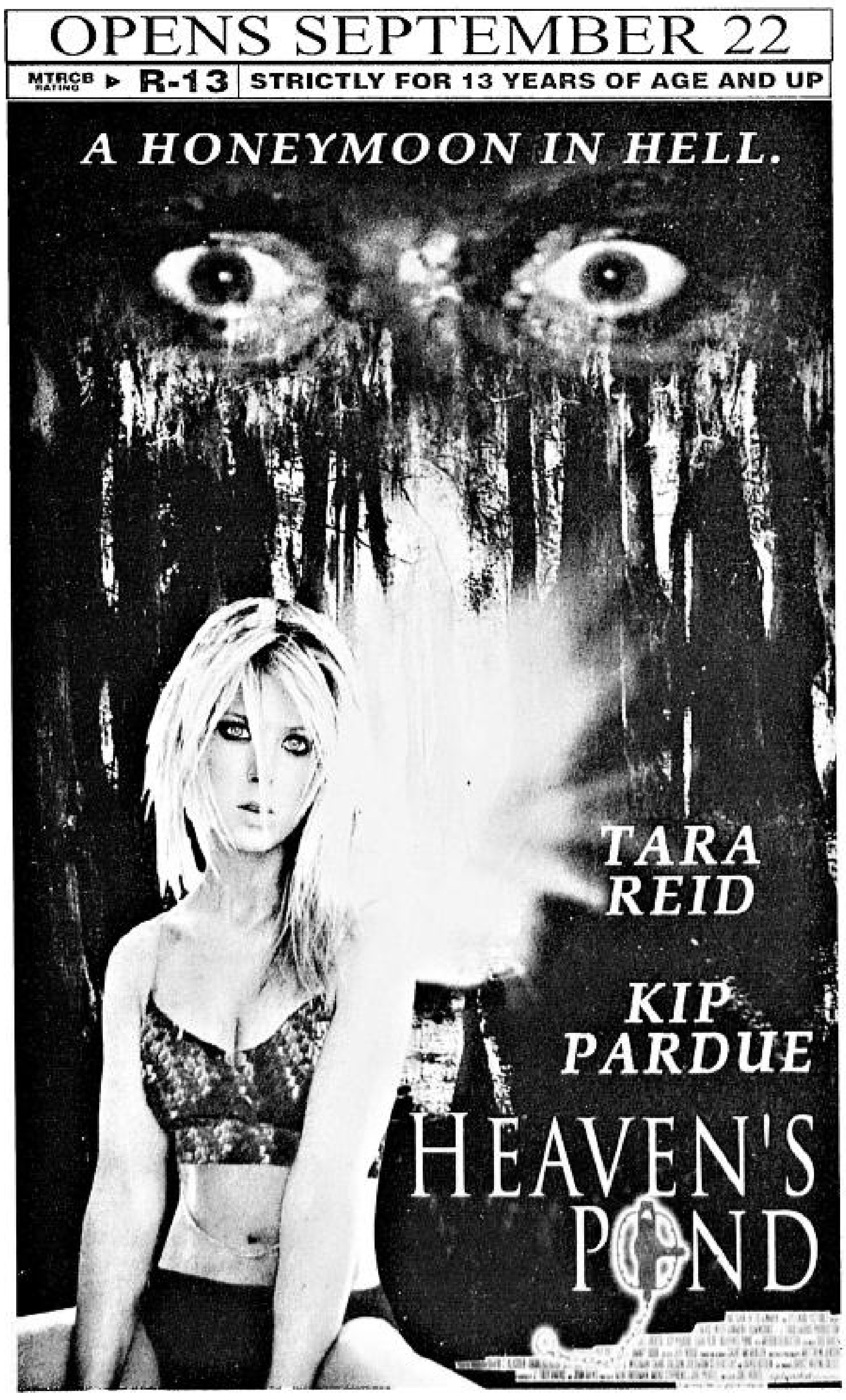

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Back . . .

From page A2-8

wearing all our hats. And I was trying to do so many things," she said.

"At a certain point, people just said to me, 'You need to choose one or the other. You can't serve that many masters.' I didn't so much make a decision as I started to look at what was in front of me and try to ride the tide, and that tide was about family."

Her new album hits stores this week. *AP*

Auditions

From page A2-5

R. Sarcia will give testimonials. And Marita VT. Reyes will give the welcome remarks, while Emy M. Pascasio will give the closing remarks.

YPNET calls for volunteers

On Sept. 18 and 19, "Clean Up the World" weekend, the Young Professionals Network for Earth-Friendly Action (YPNET) is launching its "Linis Barangayan: Tayo nang Mag-segregate" campaign.

This campaign is a long-term activity, so YPNET needs volunteers to make the rounds of Metro Manila barangays.

Volunteers are asked to call 0916-5833890 or get in touch with ypnet@pacific.net.ph.

The Emmys on Studio 23

On Sept. 20, the exclusive Philippines live satellite coverage of the 56th Annual Emmy (TV) Awards will be telecast on Studio 23 , starting at 8 a.m. with the red carpet arrival of TV stars. Replay is at 7:30 p.m.

Studio 23's shows have clinched 55 Emmy nominations. "The West Wing" leads with 12, "Alias" and "24" have eight each, "CSI" has four, "Will & Grace" has nine, "Survivor" has five, "The ,Amazing Race" has four, and "Two and a Half Men" has three.

Vieux Chalet

Enjoy good food, music and ambience as Vieux Chalet Swiss Restaurant in Antipolo brings back its dinner buffet, dubbed "Jam the Night Away," on Sept. 18.

Guests can feast on an assortment of five pizzas, three pastas, salads, desserts, and bottomless lemon grass cooler. Performing nostalgic songs are singer Dolly Vergara and pianist Jess Hanopol. Call 697-0396.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Sept. 18 at 10:45 a.m., "The Sum of All Fears." Sept. 19 at 11:10 p.m., "Sense and Sensibility." Sept. 20 at 10:30 p.m., "Virtuosity." Sept. 21 at 10:30 p.m., "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers." Sept. 22 at 9:45 a.m., "Glory." Sept. 23 at 11;20 p.m., "I Am Sam." Sept. 24 at 8:15 a.m., "Little Nikita."

On Cinemax, Sept. 18 at 3:34 p.m., "The Age of Innocence." Sept. 19 at 11:30 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: This Means War." Sept. 20 at 9 p.m., "Sugartime." Sept. 21 at 9:15 a.m., "The Prince of Tides," Sept. 22 at 9 p.m., "City by the Sea." Sept. 23 at 6:45 p.m., "Dolores Claiborne." Sept. 24 at 9 a.m., "Charade."

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CINEMA 1 THX	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:30
2	13 GOING ON 30	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
3	THE TERMINAL	11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
4	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00
5	FENG SHUI	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6	MINDHUNTERS	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
7	GODSEND	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
8	ANACONDAS	12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
9	THE NOTEBOOK	11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
10	DODGEBALL	11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P150 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
2	MINDHUNTERS	10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
3	13 GOING ON 30	1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:20, 10:00
4	ANACONDAS	10:40, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
5	DODGEBALL	11:00, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:45
6	FENG SHUI	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
7	THE TERMINAL	10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1	MINDHUNTERS	11:10, 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10
2	DODGEBALL	10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
3	THE TERMINAL	10:45, 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 9:00
4	ANACONDAS	10:05, 12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 9:00
5	THE NOTEBOOK	11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 9:00
6	13 GOING ON 30	10:25, 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30
7	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING	11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 10:30
8	FENG SHUI	10:10, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229 / 31
1 EXORCIST:THE BEGINNING
2 MINDHUNTERS
3 FENG SHUI
4 ANACONDAS
5 THE TERMINAL
6 13 GOING ON 30
7 EXORCIST:THE BEGINNING
8 DODGEBALL

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575
1 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
2 FENG SHUI
3 DODGEBALL
4 ANACONDAS

LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870
1 THE TOOL BOX MURDERS
2 THE STEPFORD WIVES
3 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
4 FENG SHUI
5 ANACONDAS

CAINTA 240-4661
1 13 GOING ON 30
2 FENG SHUI
3 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
4 ANACONDAS

STA. ROSA (049)837-0907
1 ANACONDAS
2 13 GOING ON 30
3 FENG SHUI
4 THE TERMINAL
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1 GODSEND
2 JANDARA
3 FENG SHUI
4 THE TERMINAL
5 ANACONDAS
6 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858
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2 13 GOING ON 30
3 THE TERMINAL
4 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING
5 FENG SHUI
6 HAUNTED SPIRITS 2

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2 FENG SHUI
3 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
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5 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
6 THE MISSING

ILOILO 336-8070/78
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2 HAMOG
3 GODSEND
4 THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2
5 FENG SHUI
6 CONNIE AND CARLA

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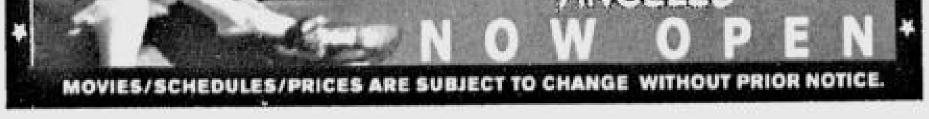

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1 THX	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
2	13 GOING ON 30
3	FENG SHUI
4	MINDHUNTERS
5	THE TERMINAL

G1 GLORIETTA 1	
1	13 GOING ON 30
2	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
3	THE TERMINAL
4	FENG SHUI

G4 GLORIETTA 4	
1	13 GOING ON 30
2	MINDHUNTERS
3 THX	GUARANTEED SEATS EXORCIST 10:55, 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00
4	DODGEBALL
5	THE TERMINAL
6	FENG SHUI
7	THE NOTEBOOK

GB1 GREENBELT 1	
1	13 GOING ON 30 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
2	FENG SHUI 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

GB3 GREENBELT 3	
1 THX	GUARANTEED SEATS THE TERMINAL 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30
2 THX	GUARANTEED SEATS EXORCIST THE BEGINNING 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:35, 12:00
3	GUARANTEED SEATS FENG SHUI 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30
4	GUARANTEED SEATS THE NOTEBOOK 3:00, 5:45, 8:30, 11:15
5	GUARANTEED SEATS 13 GOING ON 30 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20

ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	
1	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
2	THE TERMINAL
3	FENG SHUI
4	SPARTAN
5	PRINCESS DIARIES 2

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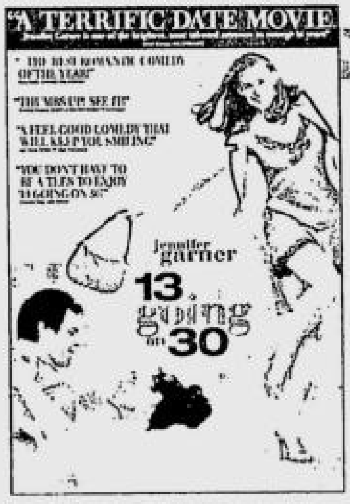

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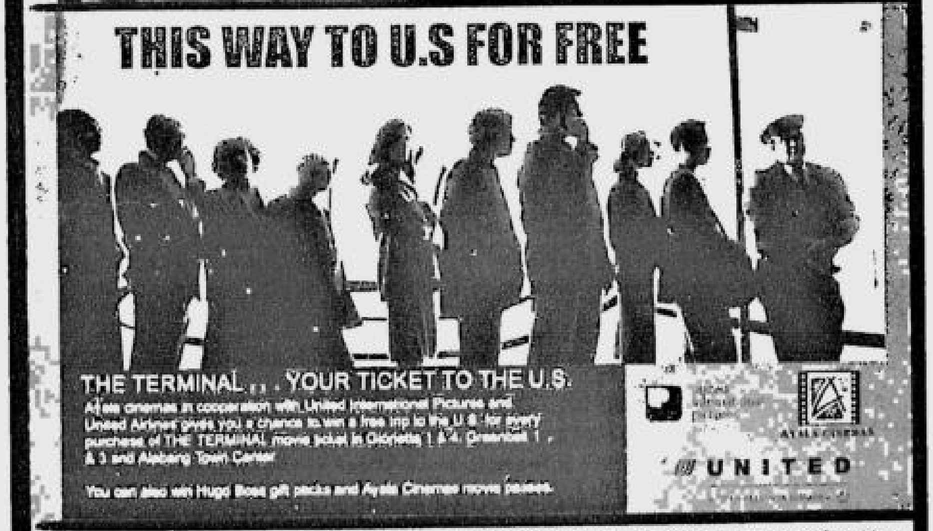

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Vivien Leigh, compleat and complex performer

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN people ask me who my favorite movie actress of all time is, they're invariably disappointed at or miffed by my answer: Vivien Leigh.

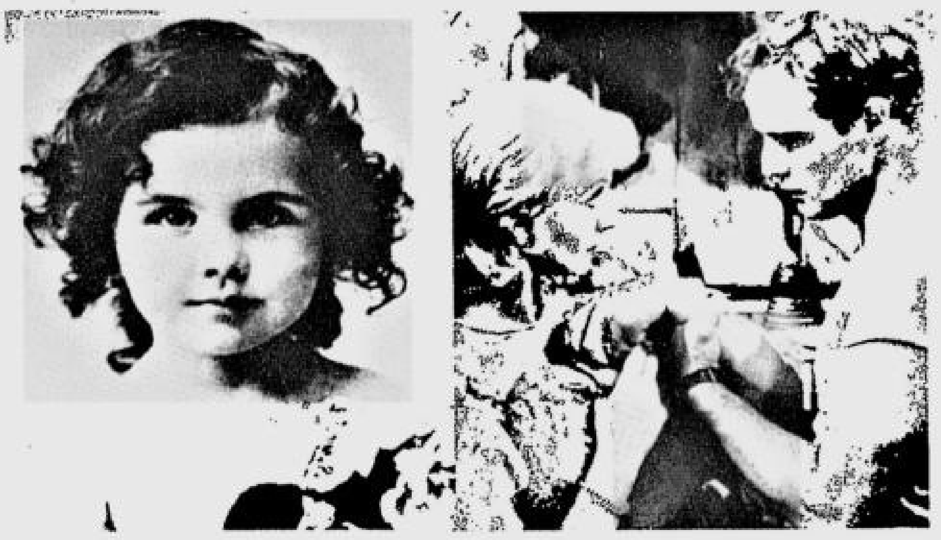
Younger interrogators don't even know who the late, lamented lady is. Older people think she's an odd choice, since she didn't really win many thespic honors in the course of her theater and movie career (from 1935 to 1965).

(Her awards: 1939, best actress, Academy Award, "Gone with the Wind." 1951, best actress, Academy Award, "A Streetcar Named Desire." 1957, Knight's Cross of the Legion d' Honneur, Etoile Crystal, French, "Ship of Fools.")

Filmography

So, where does that leave Ms. Leigh—or, more properly, me?

Well, if you ask me, in a very good place. Because, if you look through Leigh's theater credits and filmography, in addition to her deservedly honored performances as Scarlett O'Hara in "Gone with the Wind," Blanche Dubois in "A Streetcar Named Desire" and in "Ship of Fools," Leigh chalked up many awesome thespic achievements that most other actresses can only dream of matching:



VIVIEN, above, as a child; at right, with Marlon Brando in "A Streetcar Named Desire."

LEIGH and Laurence Olivier in "Antony and Cleopatra."

In the theater, she acted in more than her share of Shakespeare's plays—"Richard II," "Henry VIII," "Hamlet," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "Romeo and Juliet," "Antony and Cleopatra," "Twelfth Night," "Macbeth," "Titus Andronicus"—as well as the masterworks of other playwrights like Shaw, Sheridan, Wilder, Williams, Coward, Giradoux and Chekhov.

Her other films included "Gentleman's Agreement," "Fire Over England," "Dark Journey," "St. Martin's Lane," "Waterloo Bridge," "Lady Hamilton," "Caesar and Cleopatra," "Anna Karenina," "The Deep Blue Sea" and "The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone."

Tormented

What made Vivien such a unique performer? A contemporary describes her as "one of the most beautiful, talented and tormented actresses who ever captured the public imagination."

Her talent was characterized by intensity, insight, vitality, depth and range. Her torment came partly from her having fallen madly and "dangerously" in love with Laurence Olivier, regarded by many as the best actor in the world.

Olivier was a married man, so Leigh was branded as a homewrecker. She lost the baby she was carrying, and this further plunged her into depression.

One night, everything came to a head. She began to pace like a caged lioness who had just had her cub taken from her, and she lashed out verbally and physically at Olivier. She became hysterical and paranoid—portents of worse mood swings to come.

Later, Leigh married Olivier, but her torments remained. It's fair to say that their intensity informed her performances, and made them especially vital and urgent.

Realization

In addition, she admitted that her other emotional struggle was her incapacitating realization that Olivier's greatness would always exceed her own. She loved him, but she begrudged him his thespic supremacy—a contradictory psychological stance that made her a compellingly complex performer, and person.

I admired Leigh's memorable performances throughout her thespic life, but mostly on the screen. Towards the end of her career, however, I was able to catch her in one of her last plays in Manchester, England, so I was given a chance to appreciate her talent in the flesh, as it were.

It wasn't a very good show (in fact, the play "died" in Manchester, and didn't even make it to London's West End), but Vivien was amazing in it. Practically all by herself, she saved the defective production from total disaster, and I marveled at her talent, professionalism and generosity as a performer.

Thanks for the generosity, Vivien—and Scarlett, Blanche and all your other thespic incarnations. You really are the best!

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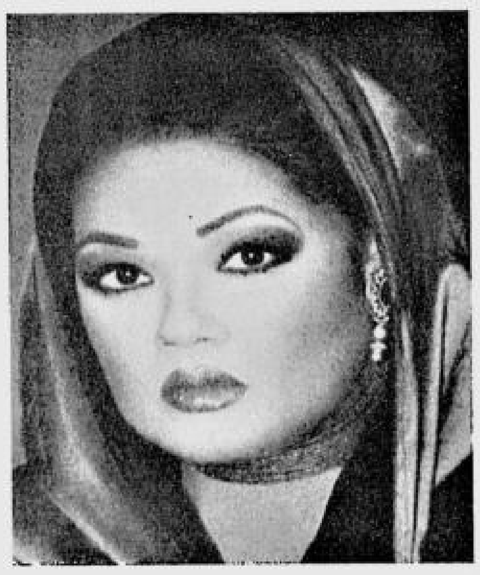

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Back in the limelight

BOSTON—Anita Baker is back in the limelight with a sultry new collection of songs and a second bite of the apple.

The Grammy Award winning singer, whose hits include "Sweet Love" and "Giving You the Best That I Got," has a new single, "You're My Everything," that is already a hit on urban adult contemporary stations.

"I'm tired, but in a good way," Baker, who wrote or cowrote nine of the album's 10 tracks, told The Boston Sunday Globe. "The attention the song has received has shocked me. It's like I'm dreaming right now."

First son

In the mid-1990s, Baker stopped making music when her parents fell ill, she had her first son and she felt she wasn't spending enough time with her husband.

"Living life is about

ANITA/ A2-7

SATURDAY *Special*

New films enlivened by unique plot premises

By Nestor U. Torre

THE NEW comedy film, "White Chicks" is generating especially good buzz in the States because of its unique plot premise: It's about two black FBI agents (Shawn and Marlon Wayans) who go deep undercover as high society white debutantes in the exclusive Hamptons.

Wild caper

Why would they go on such a wild caper? To investigate a kidnapping ring in order to boost their flagging careers as criminal investigators. Their most recent bust was a huge failure, and they are hanging on to their jobs with their fingernails.

It's a most unusual concept, which makes the film unique in the perception of jaded moviegoers. But, how to convincingly transform two black actors into lily-white high-society princesses?

That turned out to be a major challenge involving hours upon hours of make-up, prosthetics, and all sorts of visual magic that has to make a vivid impact on viewers without resorting to special or digital effects.

For its part, Zhang Yimou's martial arts action-drama, "House of Flying Daggers," weaves its own special kind of visual magic on viewers with its combination of action, adventure and tragic romance.

The film transports audiences to a world of love and deception, as an unexpected attraction between two sworn enemies leads to unforeseen love—and damnation.

NEW / A3-2

SHAWN AND MARLON WAYANS. As undercover cops (left) and high society debutantes (right) in "White Chicks."

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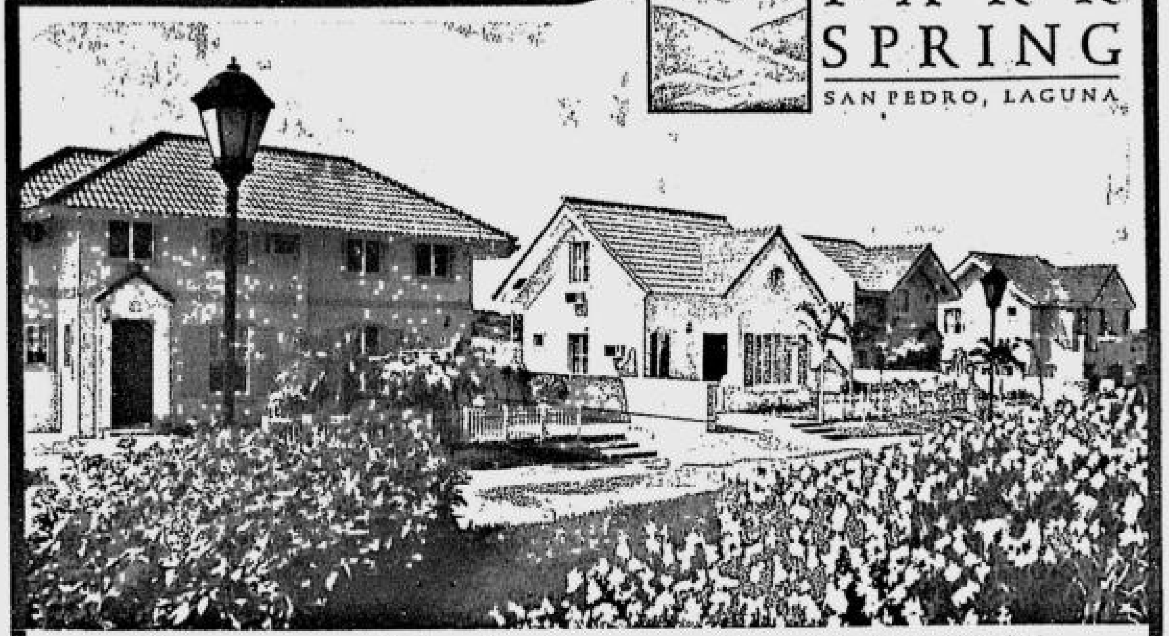

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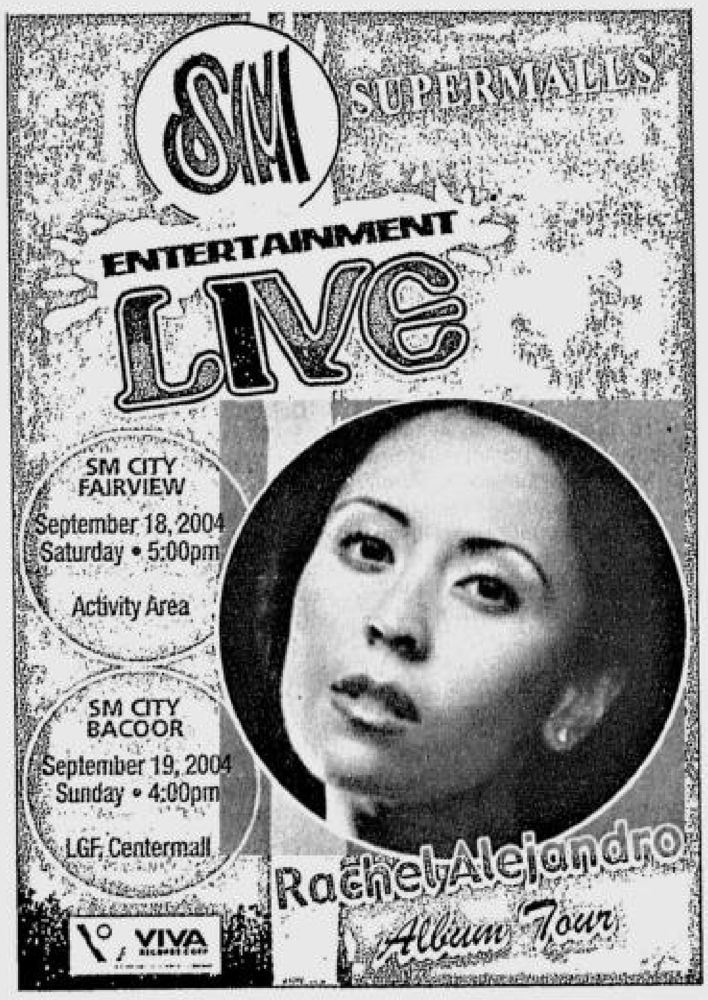
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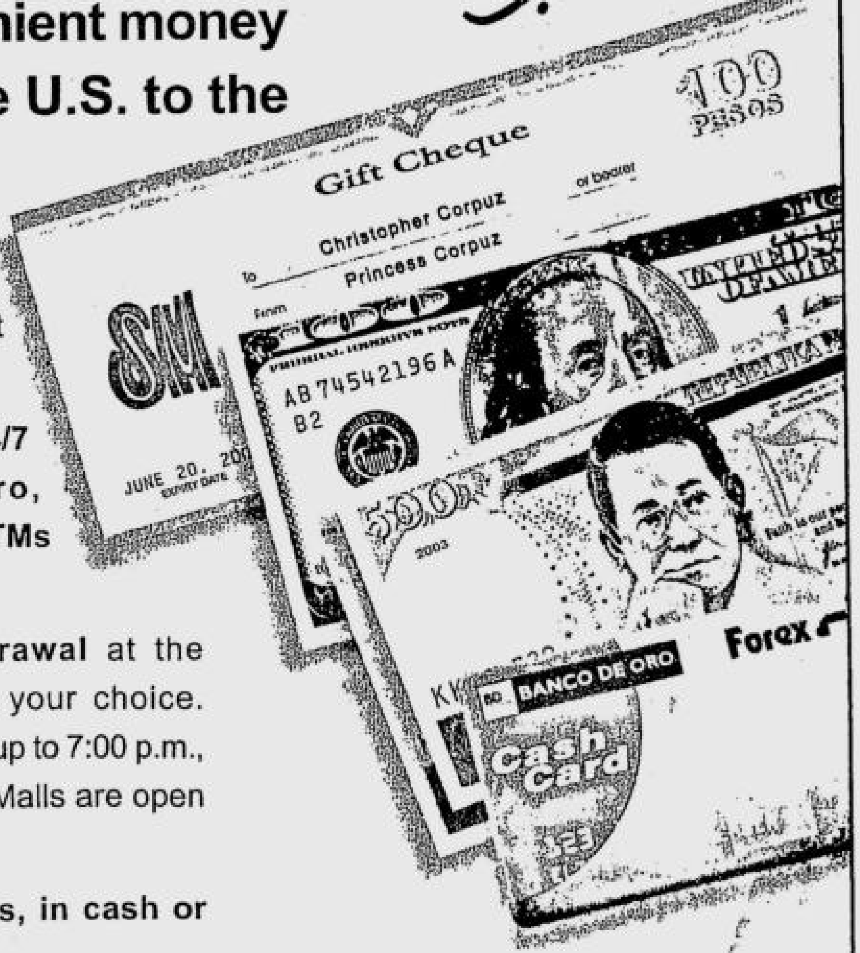

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Princesses of the silver screen

SHOW BIZ Q&A

Rito P. Asilo

FROM Tina Santillan: **"I love watching movies about princes and princesses. Can you suggest films in this genre I can look for in video shops?"**

Tina, here are some suggestions: Audrey Hepburn made her Oscar-winning Hollywood debut as the runaway Princess Anya, who stole reporter Gregory Peck's heart in the timeless "Roman Holiday."

Rob Reiner's "The Princess Bride" (1987) introduced Sean Penn's future wife, Robin Wright, to movie audiences. She portrayed the princess bride, Buttercup, opposite Cary Elwes' swashbuckling Westley and Chris Sarandon's Prince Humperdinck.

The US-German co-production, "The Ice Princess," starred figure skating champion Katarina Witt as Princess Ella, in a Cinderella-on-ice variation of the well-loved fairy tale.

Popular novel

Based on Judith Krantz' popular novel, "Princess Daisy" had Merete Van Kamp playing the lovely daughter of a Russian prince and an American movie star. After her parents are killed, the protagonist is thrown into one heartbreaking adventure after another. The cast included Rupert Everett, Robert Urich and—hold your breath!—Ringo Starr, as a gay fashion designer!

Anne Hathaway is an expert at playing princesses. She played the title role in "Ella Enchanted." In "Princess Diaries," she portrayed the awkward 15-year-old American nerd, Mia, who later finds out about her royal roots. In the still-showing sequel, she falls in love with a prince who wants to get the throne away from her.

Based on a true story, Michael Austin's "Princess Caraboo" features Phoebe Cates as a strange but beautiful damsel who is tried for the crime of begging in 19th-century England. Her weird language is soon translated by a professor (Stephen Rea), who learns that she is really a princess from a faraway land.

Mighty warrior

In "Xena," Lucy Lawless is a princess and a mighty warrior in medieval Greece. In the "Shrek" franchise, Cameron Diaz provides the voice of Princess Fiona, wife of the reclusive green ogre. In "Ever After," another "Cinderella" send-up, Drew Barrymore stars opposite Dougray Scott's Prince Henry.

HEPBURN. Her Hollywood debut brought her an Oscar.

PRATS. Played the title role in "Sara, Ang Munting Prinsesa."

R&B singer Brandy makes a unique "Cinderella" in the Whitney Houston-produced TV musical. The critically-acclaimed production boasts of a multiracial cast, which includes Houston, Whoopi Goldberg and our very own Paolo Montalban as the prince.

In the Japanese animation, "Princess Mononoke," Prince Ashitaka (voiced by Billy Crudup) has to find a cure for a curse. Then, he meets Princess Mononoke (voiced by Claire Danes).

German Franka Potente is Princess Sissi in "The Princess and the Warrior." David Irving's "Sleeping Beauty" had Tahnee Welch portraying Princess Rosebud.

In Alfonso Cuaron's delighful film adaptation of Frances Burnett's "A Little Princess," Liesel Matthews plays Sara Crew, a young girl relegated to servitude at a boarding school after her father, Prince Crewe (Liam Cunningham), is presumed dead after he's declared missing in action at wartime.

Adaptation

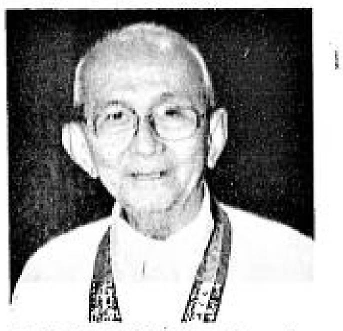
Star Cinema shot a successful local adaptation of that film— "Sara, Ang Munting Prinsesa," starring Camille Prats.

Zhang Ziyi portrays Princess Bu-yong in the Korean-Chinese co-production, "Musa The Warrior Princess" (2001), which is set in 1375 China, during the war between the Yuan and Ming dynaties.

And, of course, there's Carrie Fisher, who played the beautiful Princess Leia Organa in George Lucas' "Star Wars."

Another evening of stimulating theater with Mr. Pagsi

By Lorna Kalaw-Tirol



PAGSANGHAN. Gentle and self-effacing.

AT exactly six on this Saturday evening, the iron gate to Tanghalang Onofre R. Pagsanghan at the Ateneo High School is opened by a man of slight build, wearing a barong with the sleeves rolled up, large dark-rimmed glasses and a happy smile.

He is Onofre Pagsanghan himself — Mr. Pagsi to all who know him — and he is here to usher people into yet another evening of stimulating theater with his band of Sibolistas, as the boys of his drama group Dulaang Sibol are called.

Tonight, Dulaang Sibol is staging two plays, and for the man who wrote them them it will be a sentimental journey.

Almost 40 years ago Paul Dumol was a freshman sitting in Mr. Pagsi's literature class. Two years later, when the Ateneo High School launched a playwriting contest, Dumol entered "Ang Puting Timamanukin," and the following year, "Ang Paglilitis ni Mang Serapio." Both plays won the first prize.

Dumol is now the academic vice president of the University of Asia and the Pacific.

Debut production

When "Ang Puting Timamanukin" opened in 1967 as Dulaang Sibol's debut production, Mr. Pagsi invited select members of the press. The Manila Times's Alfredo Roces, noting that "the heart of theater is language," called the play "the first important breakthrough for the national language."

Manila Chronicle columnist Josefina D. Constantino, now a Carmelite nun, wrote: "This presentation is truly a must. Without exaggeration, it was great. The play is profound."

Since that first night, Dumol's two plays, particularly "Ang Paglilitis," have been staged again and again by various theater groups around the country.

Tonight, the playwright is in the audience, along with two special guests from the Ateneo community — university president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres and well-loved theologian Fr. Catalino Arevalo. "Pagsi popped up in my office one day and invited me to come and watch," Dumol whispers before curtain time. His presence, Mr. Pagsi announces, is making "the guys" nervous.

Prayer

Every Dulaang Sibol presentation begins with a prayer.

The opening prayer is not the only thing that makes a Dulaang Sibol production unique. For Mr. Pagsi, still dynamic and passionate on his 53rd year as a teacher as on his first, the theater is yet another classroom.

For these twin productions -- a joint venture, Mr. Pagsi says, with the Ateneo High School's Filipino and Religion departments — he comes prepared with a study guide to each of the two plays. These study guides were particularly useful to the freshmen and juniors who watched the plays earlier.

Mr. Pagsi has not been recognized as an outstanding teacher by the Metrobank Foundation and other organizations for nothing. He is an excellent teacher first and foremost, and it is a role he relishes. Tonight is no exception.

The two plays are companion pieces, Mr. Pagsi begins, but while "Timamanukin" is "very lyrical and poetic, *parang haplos sa balikat,*" "Paglilitis" is *"parang suntok sa baba, may pagka-bastos nang kaunti."*

Introducing "Ang Puting Timamanukin," whose lead character is a paralytic who never utters a word, he explains that it is "about idealism, about dreaming dreams bigger than you are. When you are young, you dream impossible dreams, you reach out for the stars."

Sparkle

But: "Some people grow old very soon, their stars fade too soon. Fortunately, some other people never seem to grow old, never seem to lose the sparkle in their eyes." And so: "Why the difference? How do dreams die? Who kills dreams? And if dreams last, how do you make them last?"

When the first play is over, Mr. Pagsi reappears from backstage. This time he invites—no, challenges—the audience to ask questions, expressing delight when students raise their hands, and exhilaration when their queries reveal probing and reflective minds.

When all the questions have been answered, he shares his own insights on the play, about the price one pays for one's dreams, about idealism. He talks about his many years in the classroom, his involvements outside the classroom ("This morning we were invited to sing for the 21st anniversary of Ninoy... You pay for your dreams"), his readings ("Scott Peck in 'The Road Less Traveled' starts with a pithy saying, 'Life is tough.' Only when we've accepted that can life be beautiful, be meaningful.")

Idealism

And then the punchline: "If we don't teach idealism, where will our boys learn it? If you don't learn it when you're young, when will you learn? And if idealism is truly dead, if there are no more Men of La Mancha—pardon the expression— we'll be in deep s__t." The audience sits in rapt attention.

Mr. Pagsi follows the same format before and after the start of "Paglilitis"—an introduction, guide questions, a discussion, and finally a reflection. His conclusion inevitably leads up to a parallelism with Jesus Christ's passion and crucifixion.

"The play says something about this time in our lives, at this moment in our history," Mr. Pagsi says, and there is a hint of sadness in his voice.

Tonight he has also invited the poet Benilda Santos, chair of the Ateneo University's Department of Filipino, in the hope that she can spread the word about the plays among college students. "If you can encourage young people to see the show..." Mr. Pagsi says.

Not for him, emphasizes this gentle, self-effacing man. And yet the beauty of a Dulaang Sibol production is that you get to watch a first-class play and to listen to a great teacher, too.

* * *

Dulaang Sibol invites schools to book performances of "Ang Puting Timamanukin" and "Ang Paglilitis ni Mang Serapio" on the remaining Saturdays of September. Please contact Mr. Onofre Pagsanghan at the Ateneo High School, tel. no. 426-6001.

Playwright Development Initiative bolsters new writers' sense of artistic worth

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR months now, we've been trying to help our playwrights develop their skills through our Playwright Development Initiative (PDI). This initiative doesn't stop at conducting scripting workshops, but goes on to staging some writers' scripts in front of an audience.

The playwrights are required to attend rehearsals and interact with the director and actors, who give them constant feedback on their scripts' strengths and weaknesses.

When the plays are performed, the members of the audience are also encouraged to react to the scripts. The playwrights say that they learn a lot from this process, and improve on their scripts in future stagings.

PALANCA winner Jeanne Lim (center) with actor Yul Servo (left) and director Maryo J. delos Reyes.

Time and talent

They also appreciate the time and talent that the director and actors "donate" to them. This bolsters their sense of artistic worth, and motivates them to keep improving as writers.

We have embarked on this modest movement because we rue the cavalier treatment that new scriptwriters get in this country. As a result, many of them lose heart and stop writing—a terrible loss of artistic capital that we can't afford.

The Playwright Development Initiative seeks to counteract this negative treatment, and give our talented playwrights the showcase and encouragement they deserve. But we must admit that it's been an uphill fight to convince people to support this movement.

That's why we appreciate the positive developments that have happened. First, the board of trustees of the Cultural Center of the Philippines heard about the good things happening with PDI, and asked us to hold a summer playwriting workshop.

Next, Lou Veloso made the Santa Ana Arts Center available to PDI for rehearsals, workshops and performances.

Upbeat

The most recent upbeat development is the good showing of two of our PDI playwrights at the 2004 Palanca Awards; Jeanne Lim's "Gulong," which was written during our CCP summer workshop, won second place in the Full-Length Tagalog Play division, and Abigael Malonzo's script won second place in the Screenplay division.

Even better, Jeanne's "Gulong" was chosen as the play that was staged during the awards night, with Maryo delos Reyes directing a cast made up of Jiro Manio, Liza Lorena, Angelica Jones, Lou Veloso, Yul Servo and Lollie Mara.

Best of all, Maryo says he might turn "Gulong" into a full-length film, since it is an inspiring work in the vein of "Magnifico."

Movement

These positive developments bolster our resolve to keep helping more new writers with the Playwright Development Initiative. But we wish that other people could help us in this movement by inviting the PDI plays to be performed in their homes, schools or offices. If you would like to help, call 589-0206.

New films enlivened by unique . . .

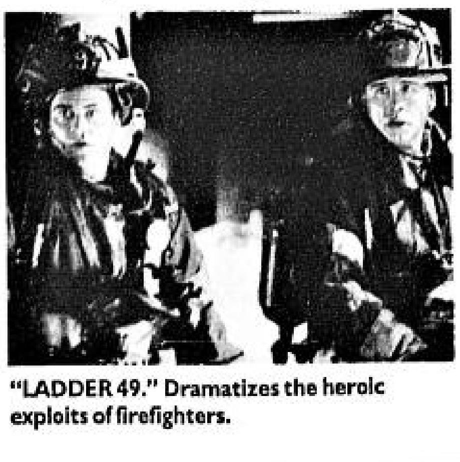
From page A3-1

Story: Near the end of the Tang Dynasty, police deputies Jin (Takeshi Kaneshiro) and Leo (Andy Lau) tangle with Mei (Zhang Ziyi), a dancer suspected of having ties to a revolutionary faction known as the House of Flying Daggers.

Enraptured by her, the deputies concoct a plan to save her from capture, and Jin leads her north in what becomes a perilous journey into the unknown.

Big screen

A different kind of action is provided in "The Punisher," Jonathan Hensleigh's film starring John Travolta, Thomas Jane and Rebecca Romjin. The movie brings the pages of a popular comic book to the big screen.



"LADDER 49." Dramatizes the heroic exploits of firefighters.

In the film, Frank Castle gets over the death of his family and turns into the Punisher. Rebecca plays Joan, a recovering drug addict who's trying to get her life back together again. She, Spacker Dave and Bumpo sort of become a surrogate family for Frank.

Finally, "Ladder 49" dramatizes the heroic exploits of firefighters. If focuses on one emblematic fireman's story—from his determined drive to join the brotherhood of firemen, the harrowing shifts that keep him from home, the conflicting emotions that grip him as he starts a family, to the bold rescues that are the job's greatest reward. Lead players include Joaquin Phoenix and John Travolta.

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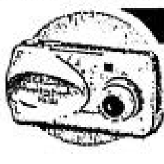

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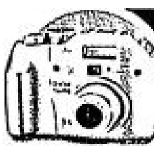

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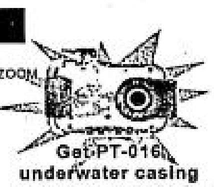

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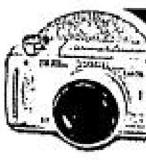

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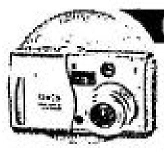

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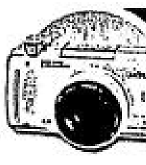

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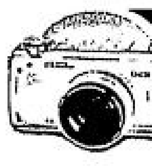

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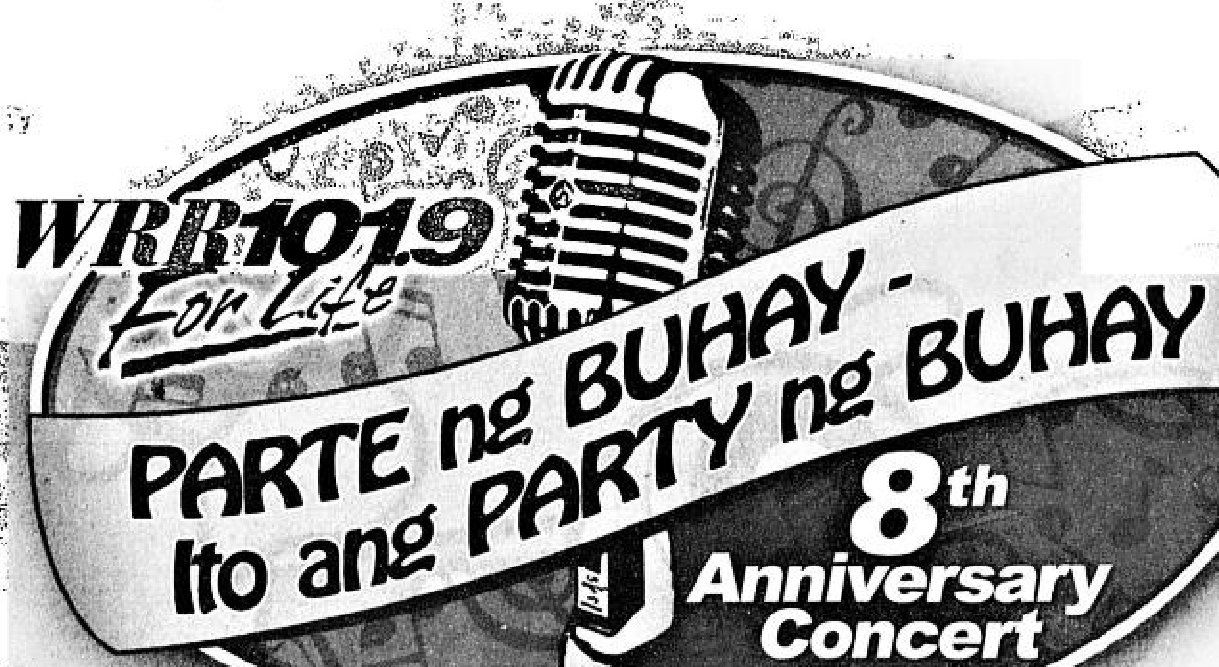

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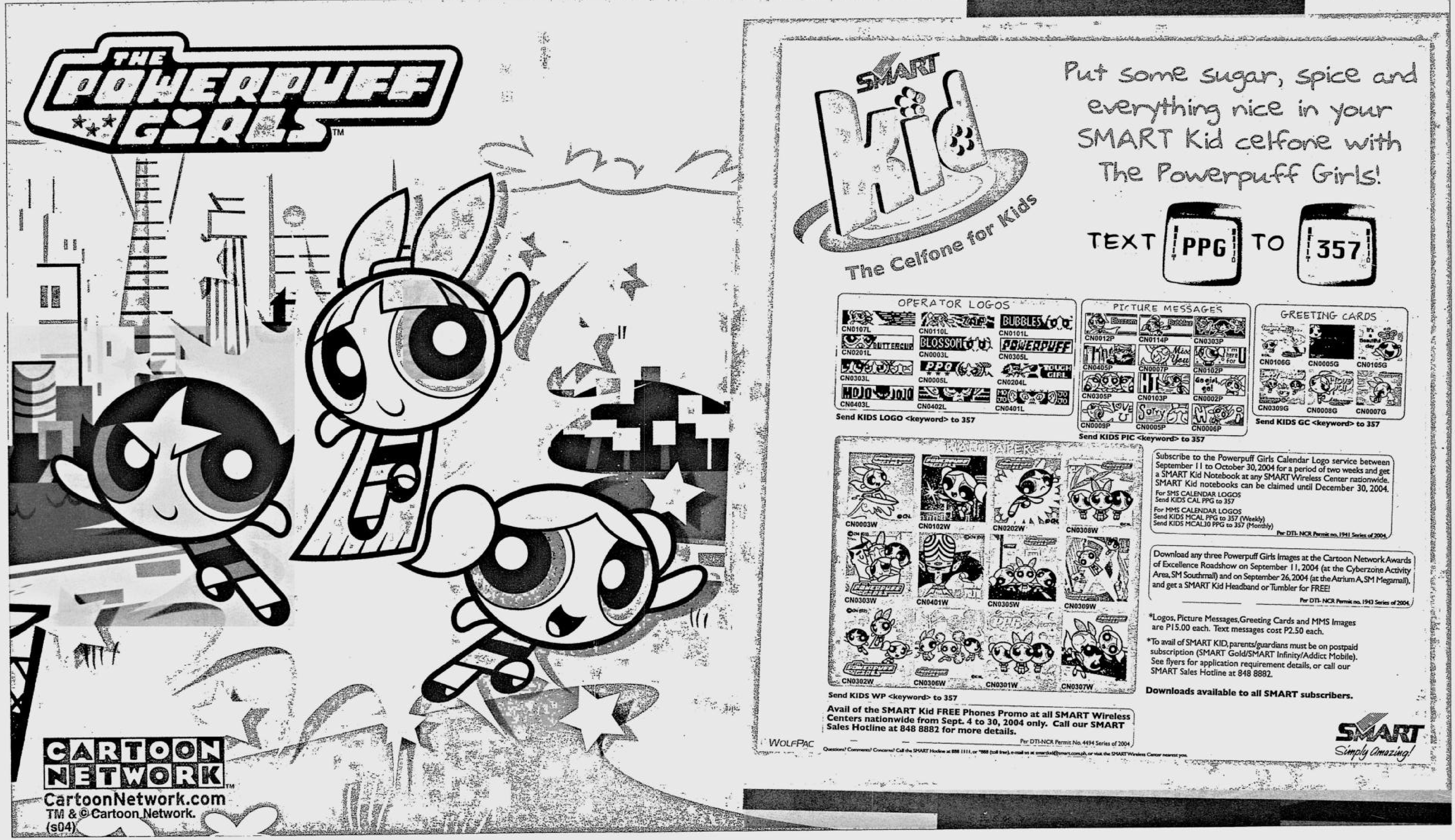
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(s04)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2004

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

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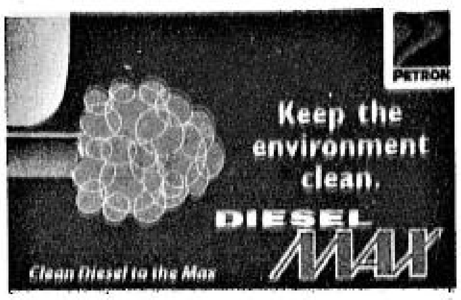


Gov't to push bill capping public debt

By Michelle V. Remo

AWARE that the government needs to discipline itself from resorting to too much borrowings, the department of Budget and Management will push for a bill putting a cap on public debt.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the DBM was preparing a debt-reduction schedule for the medium term, in which the country's public sector debt would be reduced to only 90 percent of gross domestic product by 2010.

The schedule will be used as a basis in determining the debt caps. This means that with the target of reducing public sector debt to 90 percent of GDP in 2010, the debt-cap proposal, if approved by Congress for legislation, would require the government to have limited its accumulated amount of borrowings only to that amount.

"We have to do this so that we can discipline ourselves," Boncodin said.

As of end-2003, the consolidated public sector debt stood at P5.9 trillion, or 137.5 percent of GDP. Consolidated public sector debt is the combined liabilities of the national government, local government units (LGUs) and state-owned corporations. Of the three, only LGUs have been posting surpluses from their budgets and have therefore kept themselves from the need to borrow.

The plan to put a cap on debt will be embodied in the fiscal responsibility bill, a draft of which is being prepared by the DBM for submission to Congress.

Aside from capping debt, the fiscal responsibility bill also calls for prudence in expenditure. Specifically, the bill will require that for every proposed program or project, which will definitely require funding, proponents should also state where or how they will raise the required money. Without having a new revenue source, then a new expenditure should not push through, according to the idea of the bill.

BONCODIN

Public sector debt has grown over the years because of the national government's and state-owned firms' budget deficits, or the gap between higher expenditure and lower revenue each year. Borrowings were made to fund the budget deficits over the past years, which has blown the public sector debt to 137.5 percent of GDP as of end-2003 from only 110 percent in 1997.

The national government's budget deficit alone stood at P202 billion in 2002 and P199.9 billion last year. It is hoping to slightly trim it down to P197.8 billion this year, and to gradually reduce it over the next five to six years until it goes down to zero by 2009 to 2010.

Part of the fiscal measures of the Arroyo administration is the cutting of expenditure by streamlining the bureaucracy and the imposition of revenue-enhancement proposals, such as new taxes.

RP far from Argentina-type crisis, says US firm

THE PHILIPPINE government's recent sovereign bond issue, from which it raised $1 billion, was an indication the country is far from a fiscal crisis because it can still easily access the international capital market.

This was the assessment made by international investment bank Bear, Stearns and Co. Inc., which said the strong appetite of the market for the bonds issued by the government reflected confidence of creditors in the Philippines.

"The success of the recent reopening of the Philippine 2025 and 2015 bonds demonstrated that . . . press comments comparing the Philippines to Argentina are grossly exaggerated," said Bear, Stearns in a paper on the Philippine economy.

Argentina went into a financial crisis a few years ago when it lost investor confidence due to its mounting political and economic problems. Negative perception on Argentina closed all its access to credit.

Last Sept. 9, the Philippine government sold $300 million worth of bonds maturing in 2015 and $700 million worth of debt paper maturing in 2025, or a total of $1 billion. The government sold the bonds at prices of 98 percent for the 2015 bonds, and 106.25 percent for the 2025 bonds.

According to the Department of Finance, the bond issue, through which the government initially intended to raise only $750 million, was oversubscribed by more than six times. Although "cheap" pricing of the bonds were said to be the reason for the warm acceptance of the market, the DOF said the strong appetite was also also because the market was still confident in the Philippines.

The bulk of the proceeds of the bond issue, or $750 million, will be used to complete the financing requirement of state-owned National Power Corp. A huge part of its financing requirement was the payment of its liabilities to independent power producers.

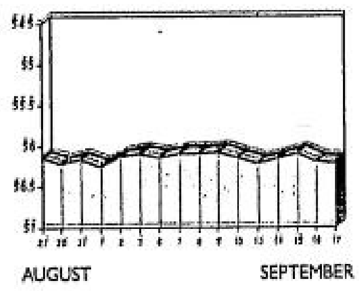
According to Bear, Stearns, the government's move to sell twice as much 2025 bonds compared with the 2015 bonds was a sensible one, because it extended its overall sovereign portfolio. It

RP/B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P 56.21 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 17, 2004

¥ 109.74 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 17, 2004

GOLD: $403.90-404.40

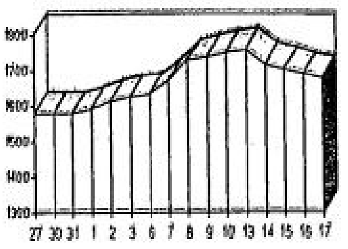
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 16, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Shares end down

SHARES finished lower yesterday for the fourth straight session, led by losses in blue chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., traders said.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 10.51 points, or 0.6 percent, at 1,681.35, after falling 0.8 percent Thursday.



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Friday's decline brings the total index loss to 4.4 percent since Tuesday after 9 straight days of gains totaling 11 percent.

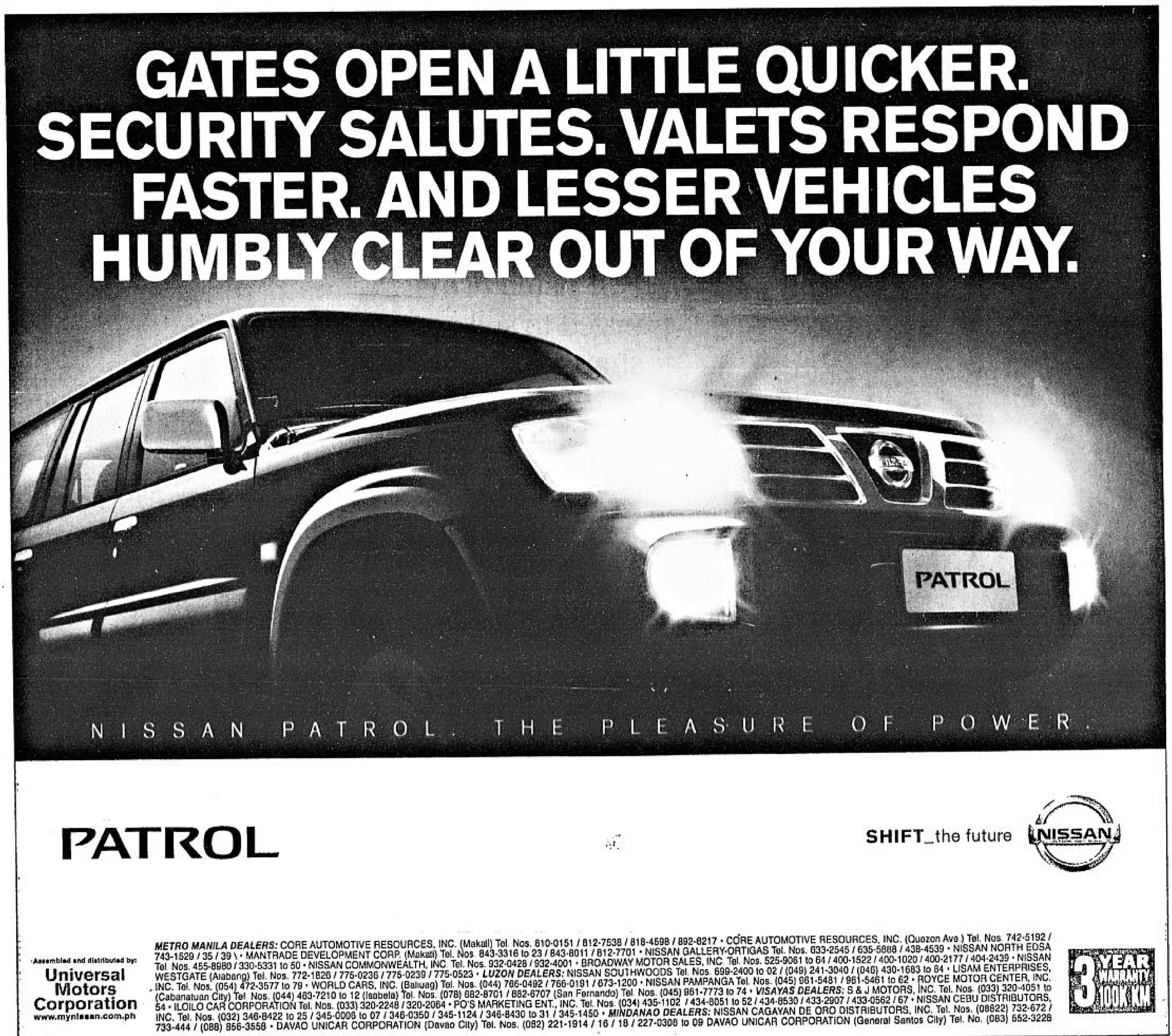
PLDT was the most actively traded stock, down P25, or 1.9 percent, at P1,325, in step with the 1.3-percent loss suffered by the company's American Depositary Receipts in New York Thursday, traders said.

"The market's decline is still part of a technical correction," said PCCI Securities President Francisco Liboro.

Stocks that fell on follow-through profit-taking included Metro Pacific, down 1.9 percent at 52 centavos, and Ayala Corp., down 1.6 percent at P6.

Bargain-hunting helped limit the market's fall, as several recent decliners benefited from some buying interest. Low-cost housing concern C&P Homes gained 2.2 percent at 46 centavos, while DMCI Holdings rose 0.9 percent at P2.16.

San Miguel was up 2.2 percent at P70. The country's largest food and drink group announced earlier this week that it stands to save some $300 million as it embarks on a program that will increase its reliance on locally produced raw materials in lieu of imports. AP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3 YEAR WARRANTY 100K KM

MWSI creditors want ₱50-M payback

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE FOREIGN creditors of Maynilad Water Services Inc. (MWSI) are demanding the immediate payment of some P50 million in administrative fees.

Banks led by Citicorp, who recently extended the $120-million performance bond, are seeking payment of issuance fees amid pending court rehabilitation.

"This would cover our administrative costs and should not be made part of Maynilad's other liabilities which we are settling in this court," said the banks' lawyer Oliver Pantaleon in a recent hearing at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 90.

However, Maynilad lawyers contested the banks' court petition. MWSI lead counsel Virginia Calo argued that the fees should be made part of the company's liabilities, the settlement of which was still being negotiated in court.

The government counsel led by Manuel A.J. Teehankee, former Justice Undersecretary, supported Calo's court arguments.

"The amounts involved are substantial, and it would be better to include it within the settlement of Maynilad's other liabilities," said Teehankee.

The government-led Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) is at the top of Maynilad's list of creditors. The other creditors, with a total of P8 billion in exposures are Credit Agricole, Indosuez Merchant Bank Asia Ltd., Citibank NA, Barclays Bank PLC, BNP Paribas, Equitable PCI Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., and state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines.

In the new rehabilitation plan, the banks are again offered debt-to-equity conversion schemes. The court has given them until Monday next week to comment on the new rehabilitation plan presented in court.

According to a new rehabilitation plan filed on Friday with Regional Trial Court Branch 90, Maynilad's performance bond of $120 million would have to be paid to regulator Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Teehankee told the INQUIRER.

Null and avoid

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

MY FONDEST wish right now is that your stomach is not full. Please forgive me. I am going to talk about something dirty. It's one of those Senate blue ribbon committee hearings.

Recently, the committee held some more hearings to beat the deadest horse in town called the "poll automation project" of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

That's the computerized counting of the votes, as actually mandated by a real live republic act—a LAW! Not surprisingly, what the law required did not happen at all.

The committee conducted the hearings, you see, only some three months after the votes have already been counted. Supposedly!

* * *

AS YOU know, the counting was done manually. And to top it all, the Comelec already paid for the (unused) counting machines, albeit just partially, with our tax money.

Thus certain senators seemed to be interested in finding out whether or not the Comelec had been duped. The machines was said to have been ... well, OVERPRICED!

In the hearing, certain senators tried to pry from Comelec officials the price of the counting machines per unit. The Comelec officials did not know.

So why did the Comelec not yank the figure out of the mouths of the executives of the project contractor, a consortium called Mega Pacific?

Aha, up to this day, when all the votes have been counted, supposedly, the Comelec still would not reveal the secret price! Ergo, the damned thing was overpriced.

After all, any businessman would rather be caught in bed with a live tuna, before they would divulge trade secrets. Prices, i.e. *puhunan*, are only the biggest trade secret!

It's as if some of our senators are avid followers of the country's highest authority in the hi-tech field of computerization, which we mortals know as the Supreme Court.

"Overpriced," was also one of the suspicions of the Supreme Court, when it ruled to declare the Comelec contract with Mega Pacific null and void.

* * *

BETWEEN us girls, lest the senators hear about it, when any government office holds any bidding for any contract, it normally provides a ceiling.

The government office also uses tons of paper in the process of determining the ceiling, needing all sorts of studies, doing all the so-called "staff work."

In the case of the Comelec, it sat down with representatives of the "independent" Namfrel, together with "captains" of the IT industry, for endless meetings on the project.

Together, the Comelec and the private sector arrived at a contract ceiling price of P900 million for the machines, plus P400 million for the software to run them.

All the bids therefore should stay below the ceiling, or else the Comelec would throw them out right away without looking. All the bids conformed.

And so, after the bidding had been done and one group had won, meaning, the others had LOST, some loudmouths suddenly came out with the sweeping accusation of "overpriced." As usual, of course!

* * *

STILL, during the blue ribbon hearings, Comelec officials tried to explain the difference between the winning bid and the second closest losing bid.

The winner, as I said, was Mega Pacific. Its closest rival was the Total Information Management, or TIM.

Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra explained that the difference between their bids was actually P4.3 billion. In other words, the difference was not a joke.

Actually, Mega Pacific asked for P1.248 billion for the contract—or below the ceiling set by the Comelec and its "advisers" from Namfrel and the IT industry "experts."

The second closest bid, at P1.297 billion from TIM, was also below the ceiling.

Borra noted that the TIM offered to count only the votes in Mindanao and Metro Manila, while Mega Pacific would cover the entire country.

If that was the case, if Comelec could automate the counting in Metro Manila and Mindanao, the project would not have served its purpose.

Look, where did all the much talked about bigtime cheating in the last elections take place? Well, in places which the TIM proposal did not cover!

Somebody actually overcame the huge leads of the opposition, mainly through the magnificent turnouts in Cebu and Western Visayas, where that somebody got most of the votes. Not in Metro Manila and Mindanao!

* * *

ANYWAY, using simple arithmetic, Borra arrived at a figure of P4.43 billion as the actual difference between the lowest and the second lowest bids.

Under the TIM offer, the Comelec could use the machines to count only about 15 million votes. The Comelec needed a system for 40 million votes.

The bid of TIM would put the cost of the counting at P88.30 per vote. Multiply this with the number of votes in the country, and you get P5.7 billion as total cost.

The Mega Pacific consortium offered to count all 40 million votes, at a price of P31.22 per vote, for a total of P1.3 billion.

And so if you were the Comelec, which of the two would you have chosen? Borra said it chose the Mega Pacific bid, because the government could have saved P4.4 billion.

Now I don't know if that is a big amount for this bankrupt cute administration, but to me, it means I can already buy some lobbyists' private jet to attend weddings in Brunei.

* * *

ALL right, the thinking of some senators was that, if the Comelec would buy the machines directly from the makers in South Korea, it would not cost Comelec all of the P900 million, or the ceiling set for the computers under the contract.

Ergo, the machines were overpriced!

But then again, buying the machines directly from the manufacturer in South Korea, and then making the machines to fit local conditions, also entail costs.

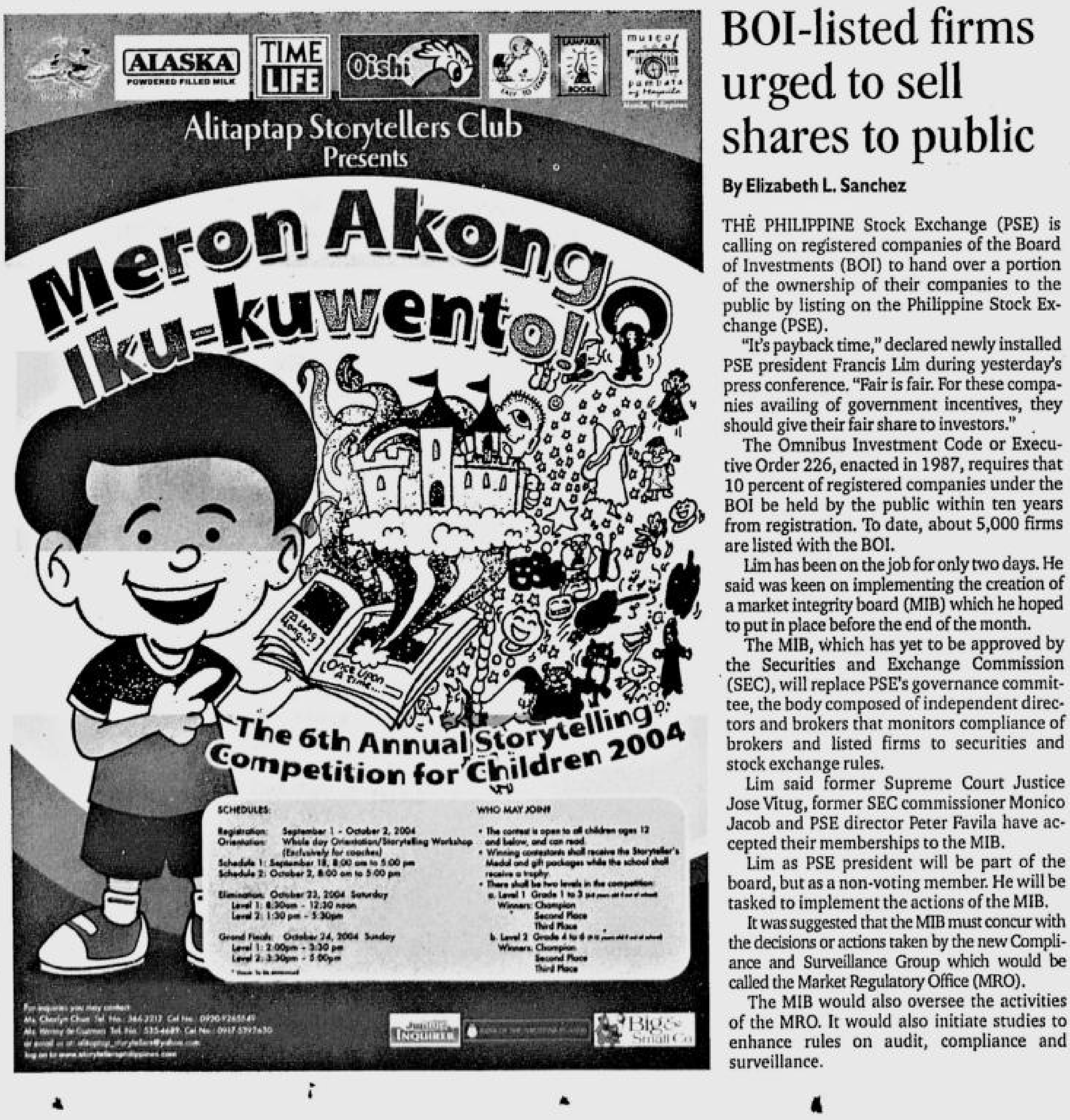
For one, as everybody in the IT business knows, you cannot just use any computer, if you have specific needs. You have to modify them somehow.

The machines were actually tried and tested in elections in South Korea. It did not mean that they would automatically serve the unique election system in this country.

Also, you have to make them adapt to the rough conditions in a tropical climate like the Philippines; or else they conk out easily. And every techie knows that!

I mean, come on, all this noise about a project which never was, only serves to remind every investor today that, in this country, "contracts" do not mean anything, because somebody can always question them, and the meddlesome Supreme Court will cancel them, not to mention the ceaseless congressional hearings.

So why will they even bother to take a look? They will just avoid us!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Alitaptap Storytellers Club
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Meron Akong Iku-kuwento!

The 6th Annual Storytelling Competition for Children 2004

SCHEDULES:
Registration: September 1 - October 2, 2004
Orientation: Whole day Orientation/Storytelling Workshop (Exclusively for coaches)
Schedule 1: September 18, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Schedule 2: October 2, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Elimination: October 23, 2004 Saturday
Level 1: 8:30am - 12:30 noon
Level 2: 1:30 pm - 5:30pm
Grand Finals: October 24, 2004 Sunday
Level 1: 2:00pm - 3:30 pm
Level 2: 3:30pm - 5:00pm

WHO MAY JOIN?
- The contest is open to all children ages 12 and below, and can read
- Winning contestants shall receive the Storyteller's Medal and gift packages while the school shall receive a trophy
- There shall be two levels in the competition:
  a. Level 1 Grade 1 to 3
  Winners: Champion
  Second Place
  Third Place
  b. Level 2 Grade 4 to 6
  Winners: Champion
  Second Place
  Third Place

Inquirer
Big & Small Co.

BOI-listed firms urged to sell shares to public

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange (PSE) is calling on registered companies of the Board of Investments (BOI) to hand over a portion of the ownership of their companies to the public by listing on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

"It's payback time," declared newly installed PSE president Francis Lim during yesterday's press conference. "Fair is fair. For these companies availing of government incentives, they should give their fair share to investors."

The Omnibus Investment Code or Executive Order 226, enacted in 1987, requires that 10 percent of registered companies under the BOI be held by the public within ten years from registration. To date, about 5,000 firms are listed with the BOI.

Lim has been on the job for only two days. He said was keen on implementing the creation of a market integrity board (MIB) which he hoped to put in place before the end of the month.

The MIB, which has yet to be approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), will replace PSE's governance committee, the body composed of independent directors and brokers that monitors compliance of brokers and listed firms to securities and stock exchange rules.

Lim said former Supreme Court Justice Jose Vitug, former SEC commissioner Monico Jacob and PSE director Peter Favila have accepted their memberships to the MIB.

Lim as PSE president will be part of the board, but as a non-voting member. He will be tasked to implement the actions of the MIB.

It was suggested that the MIB must concur with the decisions or actions taken by the new Compliance and Surveillance Group which would be called the Market Regulatory Office (MRO).

The MIB would also oversee the activities of the MRO. It would also initiate studies to enhance rules on audit, compliance and surveillance.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 17, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	17	17	17	17	22,000
Bank Of The Phil. Islands	44.5	44.5	44	44.5	59,900
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	2,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28	27	27	175,200
Prudential Bank	350	350	350	350	500
Philippine National Bank	22.25	22.25	22.25	22.25	400
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	24,100
Security Bank Corp.	21.75	21.75	21.5	21.5	41,500
Union Bank Of The Phil.	24.5	25	24.5	25	12,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2435	2435	2435	2435	100
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	20,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	120	120	120	120	30
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1580	1605	1580	1605	4,580
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21	21	20.5	20.75	26,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	1,460,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1005	1005	1005	1005	19,970
Ipeople Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	3,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.0575	0.0575	0.0525	0.0525	19,900,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.037	0.038	0.037	0.038	6,800,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	10,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.65	2.7	9,049,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	40,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1350	1350	1325	1325	222,220
Ivantage Corp.	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.64	1,030,000
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	2,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15.25	15.25	21,700
Manila Electric Co. B	23.5	23.5	23	23	440,200
Petron Corp.	2.7	2.75	2.7	2.7	460,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.14	1.14	1.12	1.12	285,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	123,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.7	2,012,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	1,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	18,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.28	5,601,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	21,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	26	26	26	26	26,300
San Miguel Pure Foods A	70	70	70	70	100
Swift Food Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	220,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	57.5	57.5	57.5	8,500
San Miguel Corp. B	69	70	69	70	136,800
Universal Robina Corp.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	79,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	1,000,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	3,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	61,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6	6	5.9	6	4,499,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.3	3.3	3.25	3.25	965,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.033	0.033	8,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.36	1.4	416,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.58	1.56	1.58	23,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	10,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	14	14	13.5	13.75	39,500
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.56	4,810,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,970,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.15	1,200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.16	2.22	2.14	2.16	7,285,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	100,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	26,000
F&J Princ.e Holdings Corp.	0.46	0.71	0.46	0.71	20,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27	27	26.5	26.5	315,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.0775	0.08	0.0775	0.0775	6,700,000
Ionics Inc.	1.9	1.94	1.9	1.94	557,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	6,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.56	1.66	1.56	1.64	3,083,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	4,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	2,530,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.54	0.55	0.52	0.52	65,390,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	700,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.5	40,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	1,050,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	13,000,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.66	1.7	42,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1	1	1	1	1,508,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.69	0.69	1,110,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.59	0.65	0.59	0.65	2,090,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	1,070,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	70,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21.5	21.5	20.5	20.5	156,900
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,500
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	20,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6	3,672,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.45	0.46	74,830,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.16	0.165	0.16	0.165	250,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.36	0.37	50,690,000
Filinvest Land Inc	1.04	1.04	1	1	8,971,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	120,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	300,000
SM Development Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6	5.9	6	22,744,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0055	0.006	0.0055	0.006	3,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	30,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,710,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	280,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	144,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.0065	357,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	1,500,000
Philex Mining Corp A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	410,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	2,500,000
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	19,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.004	0.0042	0.004	0.004	82,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	34,000,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	6,300,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.6	100,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.035	0.039	0.035	0.036	21,600,000

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. disclosed the sale by one of its officers, Eriberto Gesalta, first vice president, of his 1,000 shares in the company for P1,305 each.

* * *

MABUHAY Vinyl Corp. announced the resignation of Angel Umali as director, treasurer and chair of the company's executive committee effective Oct. 15.

* * *

ABOITIZ Equity Ventures Inc. bought 16,314 of its own shares at P3.35 each.

* * *

BI Yong Chungunco resigned as corporate secretary, compliance officer and corporate information officer of **Fortune Cement Corp.** Ma. Ruby Sarah Nitorreda was elected to serve the unexpired term of Chungunco.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Makati Finance Corp.** approved the write-off of P21.8 million in bad loans out of the company's loss provisions. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

September 17, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.819941	1.000000	56.1680
Japan	Yen	0.007487	0.009131	0.5129
United Kingdom	Pound	1.471138	1.794200	100.7766
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105135	0.128223	7.2020
Switzerland	Franc	0.646794	0.788830	44.3070
Canada	Dollar	0.635712	0.775314	43.5478
Singapore	Dollar	0.485690	0.592347	33.2709
Australia	Dollar	0.571826	0.697399	39.1715
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.174967	2.652590	148.9907
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218651	0.266667	14.9782
Brunei	Dollar	0.484255	0.590598	33.1727
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000091	0.000111	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019897	0.024266	1.3630
UAE	Dirham	0.223240	0.272264	15.2925
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.219600	68.5025
Argentina	Peso	0.275610	0.336134	18.8800
Brazil	Real	0.283815	0.346141	19.4420
Denmark	Kroner	0.134415	0.163932	9.2077
India	Rupee	0.017918	0.021853	1.2274
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215803	0.263193	14.7830
Mexico	New Peso	0.071312	0.086972	4.8850
New Zealand	Dollar	0.540502	0.659196	37.0257
Norway	Kroner	0.118516	0.144542	8.1186
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013950	0.017013	0.9556
South Africa	Rand	0.125467	0.153020	8.5948
Korea	Won	0.000716	0.000873	0.0490
Sweden	Kroner	0.109661	0.133743	7.5121
Syria	Pound	0.022694	0.027678	1.5546
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024381	0.029735	1.6702
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000428	0.000522	0.0293

Landbank forms 3 SPVs for asset sale

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED Land Bank of the Philippines has created three special purpose vehicles for the unloading of at least P17 billion worth of non-performing assets by October.

Landbank vice president for assets recovery group Omar Salvo said in a briefing the bank had decided to incorporate three SPVs with the Securities and Exchange Commission to give them flexibility in disposing of the assets.

The creation of multiple SPVs means that Landbank and its financial adviser, Ernst & Young, may choose to sell the assets in various tranches.

Banks are not allowed to own a controlling interest in SPVs. For the purpose of meeting the deadline to avail itself of the fiscal incentives offered by the SPV law, however, Landbank has decided to pre-register and capitalize the SPVs to be used prior to the Sept. 18 statutory deadline.

The planned transaction structure will consist of an outright purchase of a 95-percent interest in the non-performing asset pools by the winning bidders while Landbank plans to retain a 5-percent stake.

Of the assets to be bid out, Salvo said P14 billion consisted of non-performing loans while P3 billion were real and other properties owned and acquired.

Salvo said the due-diligence audit by the pre-qualified bidders started last Thursday.

"The target auction date is last week of October. A number of parties have registered for the due diligence," Salvo said.

Asked how confident the bank was in selling the assets through the SPV framework, Salvo said: "We have worked hard in trying to come up with a good portfolio and I think we have a good set of assets to be bid out."

The transaction portfolio offered by the bank consists of about 100 accounts, which are a combination of large corporate non-performing loans and foreclosed assets. There were about 250 collateral and settled assets.

Financial adviser E&Y, on behalf of Landbank, has solicited the support of multilateral lenders Asian Development Bank and International Finance Corp. to lower the cost for the NPL buyer through a third party acquisition financing. This means that through ADB and IFC's private sector lending windows, a loan could be provided to the successful bidders usually amounting to half of what the buyers are willing to pay for the assets.

The SPV Law of 2002 intends to help banks get rid of their NPAs by waiving some of the taxes and reducing fees usually collected in the sale or transfer of assets. The law waived the documentary stamp tax, capital gains tax and e-VAT (expanded value-added tax) and likewise reduced the registration/transfer fees by 50 percent.

The tax reliefs and other benefits are available only up to April 8, 2005.

Landbank, the country's third biggest bank in terms of assets, posted a net income of P1.35 billion from January to July this year compared to the P1.24 billion posted during the same period last year.

RP far . . .

From page B1

added that the timing of the issuance of more 2025 bonds was good because interest rates for longer-dated debt paper were still considerably low.

But while the investment bank positively cited the government's ability to raise money from the capital markets, it also warned that the its huge budget deficit was a cause for concern. Bear, Stearns said the country's deficit-to-gross domestic product ratio of more than 4 percent would make the task of managing its debt difficult.

The national government's budget deficit stood at P199.9 billion last year and is expected to be reduced slightly to P197.8 billion this year.

Bear, Stearns also said the Arroyo administration's proposed revenue-enhancement measures, which are aimed at generating P80 billion in additional taxes a year, are even expected to face difficulty of being legislated.

"While the Arroyo government has articulated ambitious list of new economic reforms, getting these reforms approved by the Philippine Congress—and especially the Senate where President Arroyo's 13 to 9 majority could prove more apparent than real—may turn out to be just as difficult as it was in the old Senate," it said. *Michelle V. Remo*

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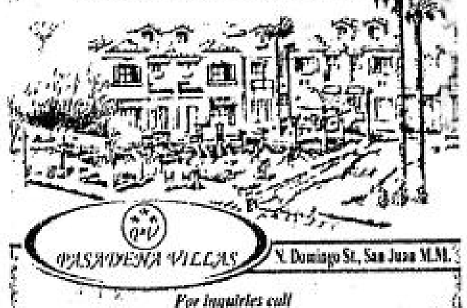

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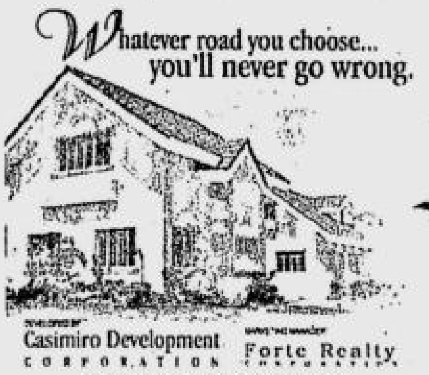

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PDCP UNIT OFC 3.9M neg. 85.43sqm w/pkg Leviste St Salcedo NEW CONDO in VALENCIA HILLS STUDIO, 2BR, 3BR, w/pkg 3M up! and BAY GARDENS Roxas Blvd 2BR, 3BR, w/pkg 6M up 20%DP TO MOVE-IN. CALL ROSE T-750-8291/0927-7996662

LOT

ALABANG

ALABANG INST. 09228094827

KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

LAS PINAS

METROCOR 254sqm @P4500 near SM 800-4771

MAKATI

Along Buendia Bautista 200m² 241m² 248m² 271m² 445m² 631m² 1400m² • 844-8420 • 845-3918 •

MANDALUYONG

Edsa 400m² Hi Density Highly Comm'l Pls. Call 645-3731

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

Ayala Hillside Estates
Ms. Kallos 416-1661 • 952-7106
0917-3708160 • 0916-5461974

RIZAL

BEVERLY HILLS 862/SQM P3500/SQM T-8425621

SAN JUAN

Little Baguio 286sqm Near School 7213127 5328754

OTHER AREAS

SUBIC Adj Hway/Resort 29HA P120/m² neg Direct Buyers RUSH 6356003 / 6337371

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2 P2,248/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM 371m2 P2,650m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

3HAS CALAMBA P700/SQM W/ WATER/ELEC T-8425621

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

LAGUNA

Con'l Binan Along Nat. Hway 2236m² bside PT&T Rush P8,500/m² 6311158

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m2 LA240m2 Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

PROVINCIAL

★100% TAGAYTAY★ 240m²-up 3,750/m² 135T D/P 6T Mo Best Loc nr Taal Vista 6609372

MEMORIAL LOT

HERITAGE PARK Lawn Lots P68,292 Along Main Rd More Lots 838-8501 09194900564

Himlayan Pilipino memorial lot for 16 Crls 374-3433

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

LIPA SAN BENITO
1.6HA, 2.5HA, 3.8HA
09166820877 / 09193173881

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

RESORT

BATANGAS w/ Improvement FLOWING WATER 1HA 09166820877 / 09193173881

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

ONE BURGUNDY PLAZA KATIPUNAN Q.C. FRNT ATENEO FA103, 75, 50 m² 9289541 / 7313055

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

ALABANG

Dental Clinic for Sale Alabang Town Center 0927-791062 / 8509071

HOUSE

MARIKINA

2STY 3br 2tb FA100M² water tank 1car grge/tel/cable/AC Ready nr St. Scho. School 942-0654 or 09173736642

VISTA VALLEY 3BR 2TB Garage • Call Jo 941-3237

CONDO/TWNHSE

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1BR 65sq.m FF Very Nice Malate Near Remedios 17T 631-0752

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NR ST.Scho/La Salle Ivory Cond All ff w/aircon/ref Stud. type 20sqm 7.6T, w/attic 35sqm 9T, 2Bdrm 56sqm 15T 525-7710 /521-8058

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PASAY

PASAY BACK OF LRT EDSA TEL 3396678, 09209130158

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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QUEZON CITY

2BR 2TB Grg w/ attic 17 North Rd nr Edsa 7253023;7237351

PHILAM TOWNHOUSE FRONT EDSA Bldg 2 UNIT 7 7361925

MANILA

840 P.Noval NR UST Tel 7313035 7361925 9289541

CONDO 2BR w/grge 5636296

PASIG

BO. CAPITOLYO 6331040 TETA

QUEZON CITY

Brnd new studio type Proj 2 4342604 / 0919-2876641

Lady 3.5Tnew studio9137513

SAN JUAN

A.LUNA ST 2story spacious P9T/mo good loc'n 6461603

ROOM & BOARD

Chin. Gen P200 7118679

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

P200 Sucat Pque 8257524

Rm TB Philam QC 9265582

MAKATI

Mkt. Male FREE UTLTY / Prkg / FF Nice P5.5 up Flex Term 8906374

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

93 CORONA P210K VIC 8907647

BUSINES DOCTOR 524-3197

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L BUSINESS PERSONAL Gigie Emie 8903461 loc 25/23

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AYALA cor MAKATI AVE Office units 342 sqm, 122 sqm P250 /sqm. G/F1 food shop 61sqm at P400/sqm.Call 8170405 Nina for details

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

SALE / RENT 8444746 G'HILLS

QUEZON CITY

NEW MANILA 3BR 182SM 9529590

APARTMENT FOR SALE/RENT

APT P4,500-7,000 Manila Bedspacers 1,500 above 561-0960 look for Joyce/Aj

OTHER REAL ESTATE

REALTORS/SEMINAR

BROKER'S REVIEW 4382966

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

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'94 BMW 2-Tone M/T 316I P500T 09274907797

FORD

'83 Laser P28T Neg 9256117

HONDA

01 CRV Ltd 42km 09176988814

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

'02 CRV 1 OWN Rod 23T Kms 4x2 P795T 0917-9474476

HYUNDAI

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MITSUBISHI

95'GLXI manhattan gray SPORTY LOOK Floaded 272-7813

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

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1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/out taking car 6567685

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

36T New Compl Sr Impid 7767507

Sale/Rental/Service 8014494

BUY/SELL

EDUC'L PLAN Dang 8061574

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Control weight now 3758988

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PETS

PCCI
325th PCCI & 326th PCCI
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SEPT. 18 & 19, 2004
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
Mrs. Liz Gunter (Australia)
Mr. Miles Gunter (Australia)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
Waiting for Handlers During PCCI Shows Is No Longer Allowed
SHOW SCHEDULE
SATURDAY
Sept. 18, 2004
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Registration and Judging of Sporting & Terrier Group
12:30 PM - 1:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Hound Group/ Toy Group
Sunday, Sept. 19, 2004
8:00 AM-12:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Non-Sporting Grp & Herding Grp
12:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Working Group
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Thoresen is a Bangkok based shipping group, quoted on the stock exchange of Thailand, and involved in ship owning, operating, agency, brokering, stevedoring, forwarding and port operations. Our growing fleet consists of 43 bulkers and tween deckers in the 15-52,000 dwt size range. For more information about the group, please visit our website at www.thoresen.com. For our **Maritime Operations Division** in Bangkok, we are seeking applications from Philippine nationals for the following positions:

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(1 POSITION EACH)

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Mr. Clinton De Souza
E-Mail: ades@thoresen.com

Send application with CV and recent photograph to:
Thoresen & Co., (Bangkok) Ltd.
Attn: Mr. Pongsak Kanchanakpan
General Manager, Group Personnel and Administration
GPO Box 1587, Bangkok 10501, Thailand
Tel: +66 2 250-0569 Fax: +66 2 655-3906

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

CY LOPEZ PAWNSHOP INC. CAEG Bldg. #7611 Dela Rosa St.,Makati City #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City #15 Gen. Santos Ave. lower Bicutan Taguig Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on SEPTEMBER 25, 2004 at 9:00am including all items pawned up to APRIL 2004.
- V. Zamora Jr. lic. Auctioneer.
(PDI - September 18, 2004)

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS Pawnshop, Aliw Complex, Calvano, Meyc. Bulacan. All unredeemed pledges of March 2004 will be auctioned on Sept. 22, 8:30 am. - Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.
(PDI - September 18, 2004)

MUNOZ-FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP,Roosevelt Ave., Kalipunan, Diliman, Quezon City. All unredeemed pledges of APRIL 2004 will be auctioned on SEPT. 22, 3 00 PM. - Lanuza & Sons - Auctioneer.
(PDI - SEPT. 18, 2004)

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Bacolod – (034) 435-0011 to 13 loc. 11
Davao – (082) 221-9034 to 37 loc. 402/403
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earnextranow.com code:atb2004 8531008 09178901851 Arlene

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NEED INCOME? 2910770

RTW Wholesaler 3738821

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Secretary Single, Typing Exp. Pasig Cainta, Mrkna Res. 6454181

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IBB

Marketing Assistant, Philippines

The International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB), a part of the United States Government, is looking for a Marketing Assistant in Manila to perform a wide variety of routine marketing related activities. The IBB includes the Voice of America radio and television service, one of the largest newsgathering organizations in the world and a leader in providing news and entertainment programs around the globe.

Applicant MUST have an in-depth knowledge of the media environment in the Philippines; 3 years experience working for a broadcast station; excellent interpersonal and negotiation skills; be able to travel occasionally; be fluent in spoken and written English; be able to work independently with little supervision. Applicant must be mature, resourceful, have initiative, etc.

Responsibilities: Assist Regional Marketing Director (RMO) in Bangkok; Maintain close contacts with regional/U.S. IBB offices; Update IBB affiliate database; Monitor and research media developments in the Philippines; monitor VOA broadcast on various stations in the Philippines; arrange for equipment installation; write weekly reports; negotiate rebroadcast agreements & perform other duties as assigned.

Fax your detailed resumé and letter to Joyce Ngoh at 66-2-205-5707, send by email to jmngoh@ibb-bkk.org or mail it to *IBB, The Millennia Bldg., Rm 1501, 62 Langsuan Rd., Bangkok 10330, Thailand.* Applications must be received by close of business on September 24, 2004.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

CONSTRUCTION FIRM
- NEEDS -
• CIVIL ENGINEERS
• INSTRUMENT MAN
• ACCOUNTANTS
•GEODETIC ENGINEER
• RODMAN
•BOOKKEEPER
Exp. Relevant License & Computer literate a must. Pls. Send Resume @ P.O. Box 100 c/o Phil. Daily Inquirer 5th Flr. Bldg-B SM Megamall

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

SALES SUPVR 09275177586

Seeking Pinoy Entreprenuer to Expand Biz Globally. Sincerely invite you to our Int'l Biz Preview held in Makati - Free Admission Reserve with Daisee 09277114699

Wanted Exp. Cook 8074128 09195521961 Call CHIT

PMAP pushes HR agenda for nation building

THE Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP), a 1,000-strong organization of human resource professionals, will finalize a stirring HR agenda for nation building during its 41st annual conference at Camp John Hay in Baguio City on September 29 to October 1, 2004.

Grace A. Zata, conference chairperson, said that PMAP raised the bar for its advocacy efforts when it decided to forge an integrated agenda for nation building. With people as our most valuable asset it is only fitting to focus on an HR agenda that can propel our nation forward in the face of intense global competition, she explained.

Zata cited the Philippines' discouraging performance in the latest World Competitiveness Report. In a field of 60, the country ranked 41 in the area of management practices, and 44 in the area of attitudes and values. The PMAP conference is a call to action, she declared. The early discussions of the HR agenda included topics such as migration, labor laws, education, leadership, employment, globalization, and best practices in the workplace.

In addition to presenting an HR agenda for nation building, the PMAP conference will tackle the values and mindsets of successful individuals and exceptional organizations in both business and government. Professor Randy David of UP will join speakers from the academe, media, family ministry, and government in a collaborative discussion about value formation.

Oscar L. Contreras, PMAP president, stressed the importance of illuminating and confidence-building stories that will be shared during the annual conference. The stories will show how we can be faster, do things better, be happier in what we do, and produce goods and services at a lower cost, he said.

Interested parties may call the PMAP Secretariat at 726-1581 or 726-1588 for conference details.

A U.S. Non-Membership Warehouse Club Concept will be opening soon!

We will be holding a **JOB FAIR**
on Monday Sept. 20 thru Friday Sept. 24 '04 8:00am – 5:00pm
for the following positions:

- Stand-up Forklift Operator
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All applicants must apply in person. On the spot interviews.
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SEPTEMBER 28, 2004 • TUESDAY • 2:00 p.m
TOP PLAZA HOTEL
• Function Rooms 1 & 2•
Echavez St.,Quezon Ave., Dipolog City

DIPOLOG CITY

LOT 1 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 903 sqm.
Lot 1031-I-9-C Bo Turno
Minimum Bid Price 77,000.00

LOT 2 LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 200 sqm.
Lot 17 Blk. 2 Bo Turno
Minimum Bid Price 68,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,474 sqm.
Lot 2645-B Minaog
Minimum Bid Price 93,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 4,661 sqm.
Lot 2647-A, Bo. Minaog
Minimum Bid Price 258,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 22,672 sqm.
Lot 2727 Bo Minaog
Minimum Bid Price 1,786,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 250 sqm.
Floor Area 84 sqm.
Lot 1-C, Bo Minaog
Minimum Bid Price 453,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,133 sqm.
Lot 2856-A Minaog
Minimum Bid Price 482,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 1,212 sqm.
Lot 2720-E Bo Minaog
Minimum Bid Price 122,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,212 sqm.
Lot 2720-F Bo Minaog
Minimum Bid Price 122,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 6,777 sqm.
Lot 2728-B Bo Minaog
Minimum Bid Price 407,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 3,687 sqm.
Lot 2850-B Minaog
Minimum Bid Price 1,301,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 281 sqm.
Lot 189, Cad 85 Padre Gomez St., Barra
Minimum Bid Price 478,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 184 sqm.
Floor Area 67 sqm.
Lot 155-C Padre Gomez St., Biasong
Minimum Bid Price 725,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 64.75 sqm.
Floor Area 102 sqm.
Lot 663-B-2 Central Brgy
Minimum Bid Price 579,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 91 sqm.
Floor Area 108 sqm.
Lot 498-A-4-C Tabiran St., Estaka
Minimum Bid Price 697,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 398 sqm.
Lot 1032-J-12-B & Lot 1032-J-12-C Miputak
Minimum Bid Price 339,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 959 sqm.
Lot 745-K-7 Back Of Capitol Bldg. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 653,000.00

LOT 18 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 64 sqm.
Lot 615-D Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 608,000.00

LOT 19 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 64 sqm.
Lot 615-B Poblacion, Dipolog City
Minimum Bid Price 608,000.00

LOT 20 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 506 sqm.
Lot 2552-E-1 Bo Of Sicayab
Minimum Bid Price 433,000.00

LOT 21 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 500 sqm.
Lot 4-L Sicayab
Minimum Bid Price 213,000.00

LOT 22 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,582 sqm.
Floor Area 392 sqm.
Lot 2613-H-10 Bo Sicayab
Minimum Bid Price 2,762,000.00

LOT 23 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,417 sqm.
Lot 4-A Bo Sicayab
Minimum Bid Price 1,205,000.00

LOT 24 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,018 sqm.
Lot 2399 Bucana, Sicayab
Minimum Bid Price 77,000.00

LOT 25 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,989 sqm.
Lot 2389-B-6 Bo of Sicayab
Minimum Bid Price 597,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,237 sqm.
Lot 2496-C Sicayab
Minimum Bid Price 263,000.00

LOT 27 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,304 sqm.
Floor Area 86 sqm.
Lot 2496-A Bo Sicayab
Minimum Bid Price 502,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,412 sqm.
Lot 2496-I-3 Sicayab
Minimum Bid Price 301,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 4,458 sqm.
Lot 8 Sicayab
Minimum Bid Price 335,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 500 sqm.
Lot 6-E Sicayab
Minimum Bid Price 255,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,211.12 sqm.
Lot 2613-I-2 Sicayab
Minimum Bid Price 364,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area. 3,141 sqm.
Lot 2483-H Bo Sicayab
Minimum Bid Price 943,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 932 sqm.
Lot 1310-E Sta Filomena
Minimum Bid Price 466,000.00

LOT 34 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 656 sqm.
Lot 1043-C-2 Governor'S Vill., Sta Isabel
Minimum Bid Price 123,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 154 sqm.
Floor Area: 75 sqm.
Lot 606-B-2 Int. Lot, Magsaysay St.
Minimum Bid Price 471,000.00

DAPITAN CITY

LOT 36 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,618 sqm.
Lot 501-B Lawaan, Dawo
Minimum Bid Price 911,000.00

LOT 37 LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 775 sqm.
Floor Area: 149 sqm.
Msi-097201-000011 Brgy Linabo
Minimum Bid Price 890,000.00

LOT 38 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 400 sqm.
Lot 115-C Rizal Ave.
Minimum Bid Price 494,000.00

GUTALAC

LOT 39 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 427 sqm.
Floor Area 190 sqm.
Lot 1716-B Brgy Salvador
Minimum Bid Price 1,698,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 26,524 sqm.
Lot 540-B Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 697,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 659 sqm.
Floor Area 110 sqm.
Felipe Opena St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 291,000.00

LOT 42 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 590 sqm.
Floor Area 60 sqm.
Lot 1632 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 219,000.00

LABASON

LOT 43 LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 395 sqm.
Floor Area 75 sqm.
Lot 2335-B cor Manuel L. Quezon & Tandang Sora Sts
Minimum Bid Price 333,000.00

LOT 44 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 689 sqm.
Floor Area 58 sqm.
Lot 1968-A Manuel L. Quezon St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 555,000.00

LILOY

LOT 45 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 420 sqm.
Floor Area 324 sqm.
Lot 3 Bo Baybay
Minimum Bid Price 1,052,000.00

LOT 46 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 4,157 sqm.
Lot E Bo Baybay
Minimum Bid Price 1,237,000.00

LOT 47 LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 11,041 sqm.
Floor Area 230 sqm.
Lot C Bo. of Fatima
Minimum Bid Price 1,391,000.00

RIZAL

LOT 48 LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 789 sqm.
Floor Area 158 sqm.
Lot 5226 & Lot 5227 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 318,000.00

ROXAS

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 351 sqm.
Floor Area 60 sqm.
Lot 4252-G-2 Poblacion, Roxas
Minimum Bid Price 158,000.00

LOT 50 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 567 sqm.
Floor Area 60 sqm.
Lot 4252-G-5 & Lot 4252-G-4 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 218,000.00

SINDANGAN

LOT 51 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 300 sqm.
Lot 299-A-8-A-3 Bo Disud
Minimum Bid Price 179,000.00

LOT 52 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 979 sqm.
Lot 558-F Bo Disud
Minimum Bid Price 294,000.00

LOT 53 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 400 sqm.
Lot 16, Bo Goleo
Minimum Bid Price 119,000.00

LOT 54 LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 394 sqm.
Floor Area 94 sqm.
Lot 1612-C Dapaon
Minimum Bid Price 212,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 487 sqm.
Floor Area 100 sqm.
Lot 8-G Disud
Minimum Bid Price 421,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,100 sqm.
Floor Area 280 sqm.
Lot 295-C, Lot 295-H, Lot 295-I-A, Lot 295-A Bo Disud
Minimum Bid Price 1,552,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 271 sqm.
Floor Area 88 sqm.
Lot 10-C Disud
Minimum Bid Price 339,000.00

LOT 58 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 2,655 sqm.
Lot 276-L Disud
Minimum Bid Price 279,000.00

LOT 59 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 291 sqm.
Lot 288-E Disud
Minimum Bid Price 75,000.00

LOT 60 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 1,023 sqm.
Lot 4 Disud
Minimum Bid Price 366,000.00

LOT 61 LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 600 sqm.
Floor Area 272 sqm.
Lot 2-B-9-E Goleo
Minimum Bid Price 1,424,000.00

LOT 62 LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 940 sqm.
Floor Area 60 sqm.
Lot 3532 Mandih
Minimum Bid Price 147,000.00

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 776 sqm.
Floor Area 177 sqm.
Lot 31-A Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 2,610,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 1,472 sqm.
Floor Area 26 sqm.
Lot B-17-C & Lot B-18-A Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 1,422,000.00

LOT 65 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 2,000 sqm.
Floor Area 382 sqm.
Lot B-16-A, Lot B-18-B & Lot B-17-A Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 2,750,000.00

LOT 66 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,604 sqm.
Floor Area 160 sqm.
Lot 3 & Lot 2 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 1,800,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 285 sqm.
Floor Area 95 sqm.
Plot 4 Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 276,000.00

LOT 68 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 573 sqm.
Floor Area 40 sqm.
Lot B-13-E-I Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 312,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 800 sqm.
Floor Area 96 sqm.
Lot No. 4 Gomez St, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 639,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 605 sqm.
Floor Area 465 sqm.
B-11-B Prov'l Rd. Disud Now Part of. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 1760,000.00

LOT 71 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 386 sqm.
Floor Area 440 sqm.
Lot 70-B & Lot 70-A Burgos St
Minimum Bid Price 1,441,000.00

SIOCON

LOT 72 LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 753 sqm.
Floor Area 180 sqm.
Lot 688-B Prov'l Rd. Liluban
Minimum Bid Price 967,000.00

LOT 73 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,131 sqm.
Floor Area 520 sqm.
Lot 2206-A, Liluban
Minimum Bid Price 1,129,000.00

LOT 74 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 352 sqm.
Floor Area 207 sqm.
Lot 79, cor Quezon Ave & G. Campaner Street, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 1,640,000.00

LOT 75 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 736 sqm.
Lot 523, Poblacion (Campaner Street)
Minimum Bid Price 190,000.00

LOT 76 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area 412 sqm.
Floor Area 150 sqm.
Lot 85 G Campaner St. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 213,000.00

LOT 77 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area 753 sqm.
Lot 483 G Campaner St. Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 201,000.00

LOT 78 LOT ONLY
Lot Area 612 sqm.
Lot 2-A-2-A, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price 175,000.00

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Lot Area 800 sqm.
Lot 1650 Nat'l Highway Sto Nino
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2002 Ford Lynx LSI M/T XJG-531
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Dick Cariño Tel.#878-54-57

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NOTICE

MECO MANNING AND CREWING SERVICES, INC.

has moved to its new business address effective September 15, 2004 at:

Suites 310 and 311 Vareb Mansion
1679 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (632) 5267855; 5255757
Fax (632) 5264021

All communications and other related business matters will be entertained on the above address.

BUKIDNON FORESTS INCORPORATED
(A Subsidiary of the Natural Resources Development Corporation)
Assisted by the New Zealand Government
BFI Compound, Sumpong, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon
Telefax : (088) 813-2037 / (088) 221-2115 • Phone : (088) 813-2654 / (088) 221-2175
E-mail : bfibuk@mlbly.philcom.com.ph

BID NO. 05
16 September 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR THE BENGUET PINE LOGS WITH APPROXIMATE VOLUME OF 6,000 CU.M. IN VARIOUS LOG GRADES

Bukidnon Forests, Incorporated (BFI) invites interested parties in the bidding of various Benguet Pine logs in lump with an approximate volume of 6,000 cubic meters with corresponding estimated price of Ten Million One Hundred Twelve Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Pesos (P10,112,280.00) loaded on truck at BFI log landing site. The total estimated price will be adjusted subject to actual scaling.

Submission of Letter of Intent & Eligibility Requirements will be accepted until September 22, 2004.

Eligibility .... September 23, 2004
Pre-Bid Conference & Site Visit .... September 28, 2004
Submission & Dropping of Bids .... October 01, 2004 until 1:30 p.m.
Opening of Bids .... October 01, 2004 @ 2:00 p.m. BFI Training Center, BFI Compound, Sumpong, Malaybalay City

Qualified bidders may obtain bid documents from the BAC Secretariat upon payment of non-refundable amount of P1,500.00 per set. Those already eligible please furnish us copy of Wood Processing Permit (WPP) and you may not submit the other usual eligibility documents. For more information, please inquire at the BFI Office, Sumpong, Malaybalay City.

GRADES	DIAMETER CLASS (cm)	AGENCY PRICE PICK-UP PRICE /cu.m. (Loaded on Truck)		APPROXIMATE VOLUME (m³)	PRODUCT DESCRIPTIONS
A	30 up	P 2,865.00		490	Without knots/visible defects
A2	30 up	P 2,600.00		1,690	With knots less than 10 cm
B	26 up	P 1,815.00		990	Straight with knots less than 10 cm
C	26 up	P 1,228.00		60	Knots less than 10 cm
S	20 up	P 1,100.00		960	Straight with knots less than 10 cm
SS	16-18	P 850.00		480	Straight with knots
R	14 below	P 450.00		1,200	Big diameter with 40% defects
P1	15-17	P 2,900.00	average price P 3,050.00	180	Electric post light weight
P2	18-20	P 3,200			Standard

The BFI reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any informalities or defects found therein and may accept only such bids which, in its judgment, is deemed most advantageous to BFI.

(Sgd.) DENNIS N. RAMIREZ
Admin/R&SS Manager/BAC Chairman
NOTED:
(Sgd.) MANUEL M. CASIÑO
VP General Manager

(PDI – September 18, 19 & 20, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 000-784-336-000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through its Bidding and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of the following items to be delivered to different points in the Philippines, as follows:

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES	VARIOUS FARM MACHINERIES, AND EQUIPMENT, TRUCKS AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT, (BRAND NEW AND RECON) REBIDDING	LABORATORY EQUIPMENT (BRAND NEW) REBIDDING
Issuance of Eligibility & Bidding Documents	Sept. 13 - Oct. 5, 2004 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM SRA Bidding Scretariat 3rd Floor SRA Annex Building Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Q.C. **For a non-refundable amount of Php 500.00**	Sept. 13 - Oct. 5, 2004 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM SRA Bidding Secretariat 3rd Floor SRA Annex Building Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Q.C. **For a non-refundable amount of Php 500.00**
Pre-bid Conference	Septembe 27, 2004 9:00 AM	September 27, 2004 2:00 PM
Submission & Opening of Eligibility & Bid Envelopes	October 6, 2004 9:00 AM	October 6, 2004 2:00 PM
Venue for the Pre-Bid Conference and Public Bidding	SRA Social Hall North Avenue, Diliman, Q.C.	SRA Social Hall North Avenue, Diliman, Q.C.
APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT	**Php 3,667,120.00**	**Php 130,000.00**

For particulars, please contact:

The Bidding Secretariat - Telephone No. 929-6837

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) **JAMES C. LEDESMA**
Administrator

(PDI - Sept. 11 & 18, 2004)

NOTICE TO ALL BUSINESS NAME REGISTRANTS

PURSUANT TO SECTION 12 (A) OF DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 15 SERIES OF 1990, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY THROUGH THE BUREAU OF TRADE REGULATION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, CANCELS FROM THE RECORD ALL BUSINESS NAME REGISTRATIONS WHICH EXPIRED AS OF **MARCH 31, 2004 EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2004.**

UNDER THE BUSINESS NAME LAW (ACT NO. 3883), AS AMENDED, OWNERS OR PROPRIETORS SHOULD RENEW THEIR BUSINESS NAME REGISTRATION UPON EXPIRATION THEREOF.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SERVES AS A FORMAL NOTICE TO ALL CONCERNED.

FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE.

(Sgd.) **ASST. DIR. JAIME LASARO L. OLMOS**
Caretaker, BTRCP

(PDI-Sept 18 2004)

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An Evening with Jose Mari Chan with special guest Anna Fegi

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Tickets are available at major National Bookstore Branches, Robinson's Department Store (Malate, Galleria, Pampanga, Cavite), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Music Museum (Virra Mall, Greenhills), Ayala Center Inc. Greenbelt 1 Ticket Booth Cinema Lobby, Glorietta 1 Ticket Booth Cinema Lobby and on the TicketWorld website found at www.ticketworld.com.ph Call 891-9999 for inquiries and reservations.

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER

East Avenue, Quezon City

is now accepting applications for
Academic Year 2005

FELLOWSHIP (with specific requirements)

I. Pediatric Cardiology

- 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
- at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics by the PPS

II. Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery

- 5 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS
- must have passed certifying examination given by the PBS (Board eligible/Diplomate)
- at least qualified to take PBS certifying examination and the submission of satisfactory results of the in-service training examinations

III. Anesthesiology

- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)
- pre-fellowship (except for graduates of the Philippine Heart Center Anesthesia Residency Program)

RESIDENCY (QUERT not required) fill-up application at DOH for matching (for Medical Board Passers)

I. Radiology
II. Nuclear Medicine
III. Biological and Clinical Laboratory (Pathology)

** Deadline for submission of application is on September 15, 2004*
** Academic Year 2005 starts on January 1, 2005*

General Requirements for Application for Fellowship & Residency:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the Weighted General Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different Doctors specifically the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous training programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:

JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 0919-2885303) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 0916-3021735) with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

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CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Civil Service Commission (CSC) needs the services of a licensed and qualified Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) duly registered with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) and with CSC. The winning bidder shall provide basic information on the company's stability, affiliated hospital and institutions, accredited health professionals and valued clients. Strengths and key competencies of the company may be highlighted.

Name and Description of the Project	Approved Budget For the Contract (ABC)	Source of Funds
AVAILING OF SERVICES OF A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION	P5,823,747.94 per year over the next 5 years	Centennial Health Care Fund

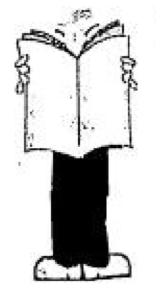
2. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be allowed to bid. All bids equal to or lower than the ABC shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the Project under bidding subject to Post-qualification before an award is made. Bid prices submitted higher than the ABC shall be rejected and returned outright.
3. Eligibility documents will be available for issuance on **October 4 to 18, 2004** at the Bids and Awards Committee(BAC) Secretariat, Basement, CSC Building, Diliman, Quezon City, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) with an approved Order of Payment to the CSC collecting Officer found at the Mamamayan Muna in Action Center , Ground floor, CSC Building.
4. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before **October 19, 2004;** 5 P.M. and shall be submitted at the BAC Secretariat, c/o Ms. Moonyeen T. Alegro, General Services Division, Basement, CSC, Diliman, Quezon City. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
5. To facilitate eligibility check/screening of prospective bidders, Suppliers or contractors are requested to register with the BAC Secretariat by submitting the basic requirements, enumerated under Sec. 23.6 - 23.10 of IRR-A, RA 9184, duly notarized under oath that each of the said documents submitted is an authentic and original copy, or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original, complete, and that all statements and information provided therein are true and correct. The same should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors/suppliers upon approval.
6. Schedule of Bidding Activities:

ACTIVITY	DATE/TIME	VENUE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 4 to 18, 2004	BAC Secretariat, GSD Basement, CSC Bldg.
2. Pre-Bid conference	October 8, 2004; 3 PM	CSC Function Room
3. Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Bids	October 20, 2004; 3 PM	CSC Function Room

7. CSC reserves the right to reject any application for eligibility, or all bids without offering any reasons, waive and required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
8. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

Asst. Commissioner ELMER R. BARTOLATA
Chairman Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 18 & 25, 2004)



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"Mommy, we love you so much,
we'll miss you but we will never forget you"

CO SIOK HIAN LAO

(Wife of the late Luis Co Chi Kiat)

Peacefully joined her Creator
on September 14, 2004 at the age of 81.

Her bereaved ***children***: Andy (†) & Helen, William & Bethy Syhau, William & Belen Wong, Luis Jr. & Tessie, Lucio & Susan, Lino (†) & Melinda, Alex & Benita Chua, Lorenzo & Fe; ***grandchildren***: Jennifer, Edgar, Sherwin, Sheryll, Cinderella & Patrick, Hudson, Joyce & Dickson, Mark, Aimee, Aline, Neil, Vincent, Pamela, Camille, Katrina, Beverly, Charmaine, Nikki, Robin, Edward (†), Benedick, Kenneth, Share, Michelle, Lino Jr., Gemalin; ***greatgrandchild***: Chris Daniel; brother, in-laws, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at **Chapel 2 (*new bldg.*), La Funeraria Paz**, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Chinese Cemetery on Monday, September 20 at 8:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations to ***Luis Co Chi Kiat Foundation***
will be greatly appreciated.

The Members of the Board of Trustees
of FRD-GREENBELT STO. NIÑO DE
PAZ FOUNDATION;
The Administrator, Staff, Servant Leaders
and Members of the Greenbelt Chapel Community
Extend their deepest sympathies and express their
deep sorrows and grief to the family of

ELENA F. FAJARDO

(Mother of Fr. Pericles F. Fajardo, Chaplain)
who peacefully joined her Creator on
September 16, 2004
Her body lies in state at the National Shrine of the
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Dao St., Makati City
Burial Mass at the Shrine is on
September 21, 2:00 P.M.
Cremation follows at 4:00 P.M., Loyola Memorial,
Guadalupe, Makati.
Your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul
is heartily appreciated.

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Antonio Gacuma Dabao, Sr.

"Toñing"

July 17, 1923 – September 13, 2004

Peacefully joined our Lord
at the age of 81.

His wife, **Maring** (†); bereaved children and in-laws **Sony Dabao-Salvador**, **Gingging & Jimmy General**, **Tonette**, **Vincent**, **Marty & Camille** *(nee Salazar)*, **Lufie & Lena** *(nee Pido)*, and a special family friend **Rei Bancil**; grandchildren **Barbie & Frank Lach**, **Luis**, **Mikki**, **Miko**, **Cayo**, **Rafa**, **Iya**, **Ponso**, **Mayen**, **Oliver**, **baby Antonio**, **Yana** and **baby Aneesa**; great grandchild **Santino**.

His body lies in state at the Celedonia Locsin Sanson Memorial Chapel at St. Anne Parish, M.H. del Pilar Street, Molo, Iloilo City from September 15-18, 2004 and at Our Lady of Beautiful Love Parish, Merville Subdivision, Parañaque, Metro Manila on September 19-21, 2004.

A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Anne Parish on September 18, 2004 at 7:00 PM before departure to Manila.

Cremation at the Holy Trinity, Sucat, Parañaque, Metro Manila, September 22, 2004.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord" 2 Corinthians 5:8

DOF on ₱1-B loss: It's how market works

By Michelle V. Remo

IT IS just how the market works, and nothing more.

The Department of Finance (DOF) yesterday rejected insinuations that the government allowed the loss of P1 billion in the latest sovereign bond issue by selling ROP (Republic of the Philippines) debt papers at a high discount.

The DOF explained that the movement of bond prices was market-determined.

Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto, the man in charge of foreign borrowings, said that on Sept. 7, the government made the announcement to the international bond market that the Philippines would be issuing bonds. That day, price for the bonds maturing in 2015 was at 99.375 percent, while bonds maturing in 2025 was at 108.5 percent.

Recto said that it was only on Sept. 8, the day after the announcement of the bond issue, that the pricing of the bonds were made. On Sept. 8, the cost of borrowings have become more expensive at 98.28 for bonds maturing in 2015, and 107.125 for debt papers maturing in 2025.

On Sept. 9, a day after the bonds were priced, the government was able to sell $300 million worth of bonds maturing in 2015, and $700 million worth of bonds maturing in 2025, for a total of $1 billion.

The government was able to sell the bonds at a more expensive rate of 98 percent for the 2015 bonds and 106.25 percent for the 2025 bonds, or as much as a percentage point discount.

"It is a normal market reaction that borrowings become more expensive after an announcement of a bond issue is made because you are giving them new supply," Recto explained.

He added that the discount given by the government in the latest bond issue should not be singled out because it has been giving the same amount of discounts in its past bond issues.

Recto also compared the latest 2015 bond issue with the one held last March. He said the 2015 bonds fetched a yield rate of 9 percent in March, and a rate of 9.17 in the bond issue over a week ago. He said that the 17-basis-point deterioration was slight compared with the 50-basis-point increase in US interest rates that happened between March and September.

The Senate committee on finance, in a budget hearing the other day, questioned finance officials on the pricing of the bonds, saying that the country already has one of the most expensive cost of borrowing in the region.

Legislators raised the concern that banks might prefer investing in attractively priced ROP bonds, rather than engage in lending to businesses. Legislators said that this, in effect, would reduce the available money for lending and hamper economic activity.

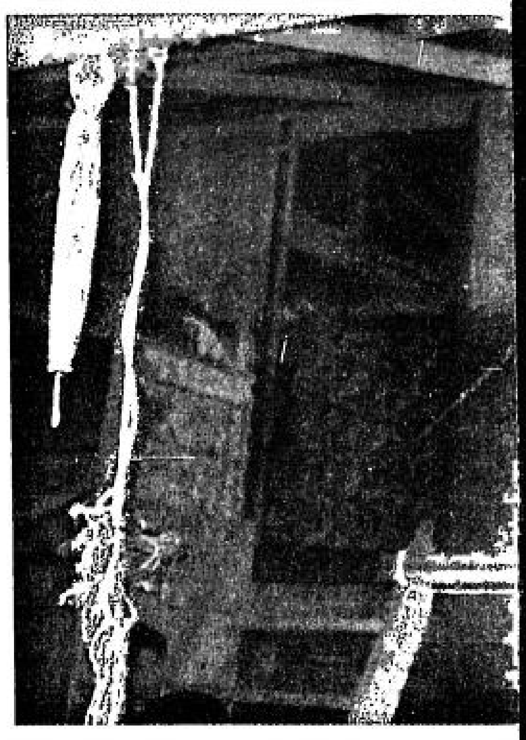
The banks already hold a substantial number of bonds.

Recto, who was not present during the budget hearing, said he was willing to face the Senate and answer any query about the latest bond issue, which was earmarked for the state-owned National Power Corp.

Of the $1 billion generated from the bond issue, $750 million would be used to pay Napocor's liabilities to independent power producers. The remaining $250 million would be used by the national government for its own financing requirement next year.

Reacting to comments that the government should have waited until bond prices become cheaper before making the issue, Recto said the government had to sell the bonds immediately to avoid competition and an expected increase in US interest rates.

He said countries like Brazil, Turkey, China and Korea, among others, are also set to make a bond issue this month and in October. He added that the US Federal Reserve is expected to raise its interest rates by another 25 basis points when the Federal Open Market Committee meets on Sept. 22.



Duty Free marks rebound in sales

DUTY Free Philippines turned from a losing venture to a profitable concern under the watch of Michael Kho, DFP general manager since 2001.

The DFP is an attached agency of the Philippine Tourism Authority, the unit implementing the projects of the Department of Tourism.

In an accomplishment report for the years 2001-2004, Kho showed that the DFP posted net incomes of P403.5 million in 2001, P528 million in 2002 and P503 million last year.

The figures represented a full turnaround from losses of P535 million incurred in 1997, P1.151 billion in 1998, P205 million in 1999 and P212 million in 2000.

The 3 percent sales increase in 2002, the first since 1995, was the result of continuing reform aimed at reducing cost, improving profitability, improving store layouts, and introduction of new products and marketing focus.

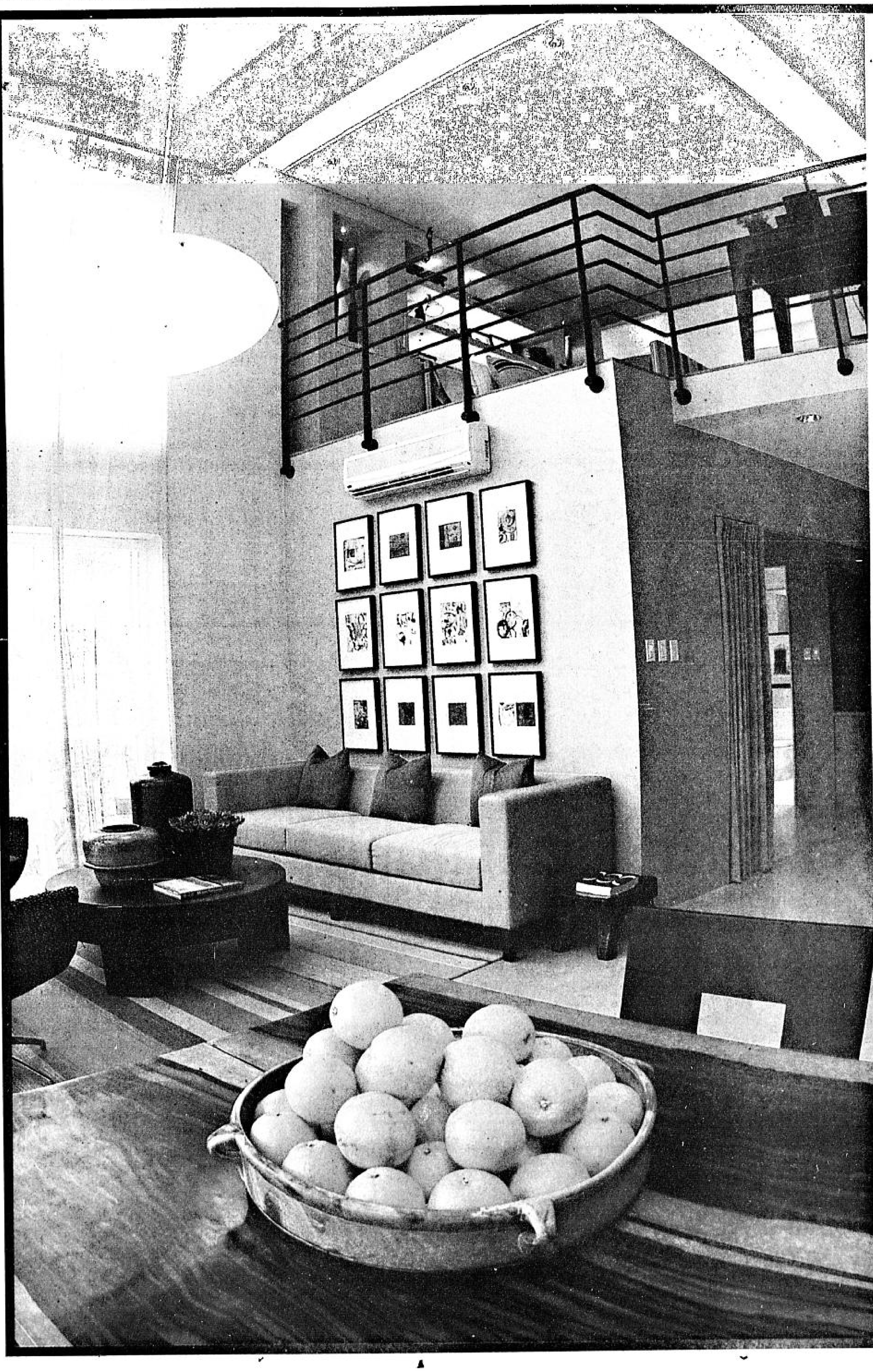
Their efforts paid off, Kho said, when Raven Fox Publications recognized them as the Best Travel Retail (Duty Free) Operator Operating in a Single Country during the 2002 Tax Free World Exposition Congress held in Singapore.

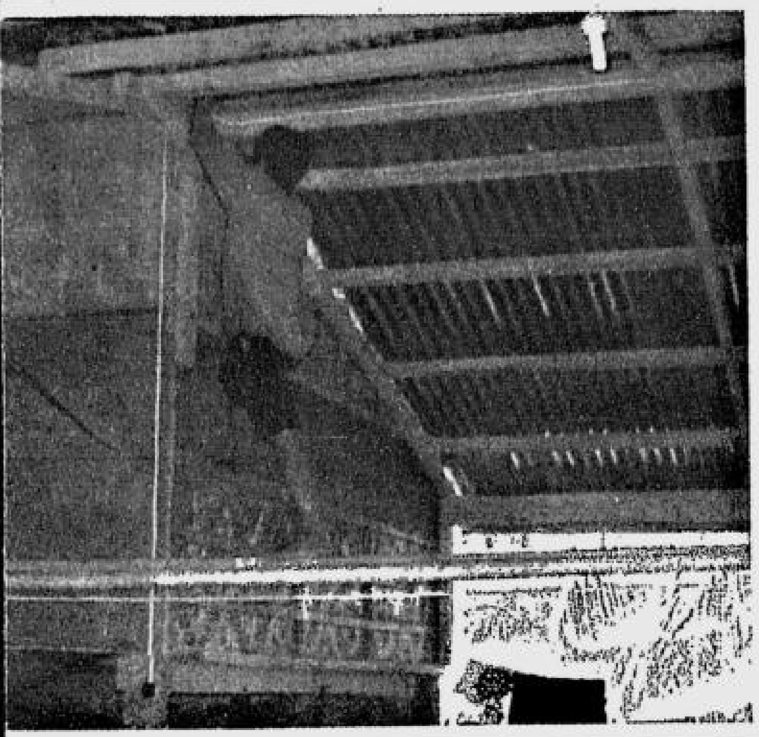
Kho said they had to restructure their debt burden with major creditors, settling high-interest-bearing loans to reduce their debt from P4.4 billion in 2001 to P3 billion in June 2004.

Interest charges were likewise lowered from P243 million in 2001 to some P120 million in 2004.

Prompt payment to suppliers and contractors resulted in rebates and discounts of P192 million in 2002, P205 million last year and P36.8 million in the first half of this year, Kho said.

Kho said they had redirected their marketing efforts toward the Filipino traveler with his changing shopping habits. The DOT and DFP also spearheaded the passing of Republic Act No. 9174 or the New Balikbayan Law, which amended the balikbayan's duty free privileges in November 2002. This Christmas, Filipino travelers will have a month to do their *pasalubong* shopping.





THAT'S AMORE An engineer of the Alliance for Mindanao Off-grid Renewable Energy (AMORE) puts on the finishing touches in the installation of a lighting system in one of the beneficiary households in Barangay Paitan, Buluan, Maguindanao. The Amore project aims to put up power generation units in remote villages in the southern Philippines.

Coco oil export seen to double in '04

By Christine Gaylican

THE COUNTRY'S export of virgin coconut oil may be more than double this year due to the growing demand for the product in the United States.

According to Paolo P. Mamangun Jr., president of the Virgin Coconut Oil Producers and Traders Association of the Philippines, the country exported a total of 100,000 liters of the product in 2003. He said that as of July this year, exports of virgin coconut oil already passed the 200,000-liter mark.

There are now 23 virgin coconut oil producers and manufacturers in the country. The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) recently decided to establish quality standards for the manufacturers to bolster their acceptance worldwide.

PCA Administrator Danilo Coronacion said that interim standards that would serve as working reference for the producers and consumers would soon be put in place.

"This would send a message that the industry is serious in seeking acceptable standards to ensure that bad (practices) are weeded out," said Coronacion. "This step will ensure that Philippine virgin coconut oil is safe."

He added that fixed quality standards would also prevent manufacturers from taking short cuts in their processes and do away with product tampering.

"We have seen that happen with our nata de coco products before and the potentials of the industry were never realized because of poor manufacturing standards," PCA Deputy Administrator Carlos CArpio said.

The Department of Science and Technology, the Science departments of the University of the Philippines in Diliman and Los Baños, and the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards, are holding joint consultations with the private sector and the PCA.

Aside from the US market, the country currently delivers virgin coconut oil to Singapore, Japan and Korea.

Extracted from fresh mature coconut meat or its derivative (coconut milk and coconut milk residue, or what is known as "sapal" in the vernacular) by mechanical or natural means, with or without the application of heat, Mamangun claimed that the virgin oil contained medicinal properties.

The oil contains no fats and cholesterol, he said.

Mamangun also said that the virgin oil could be taken in as food or dietary supplement like liquid vitamin. It could also be used as cooking oil, food ingredient, or food seasoning.

He added virgin oil could also be used to heal insect bites and wounds, skin allergies and viral or fungal infections.

Cigarette maker backs specific excise tax

PHILIP Morris Philippines Inc. yesterday insisted that an additional specific excise tax on cigarettes was a better way to raise additional government revenue from the industry rather than returning to the ad valorem system of taxation.

PMPMI managing director Chris Nelson said in a statement that the specific excise tax system, on the one hand, would be easier to administer and would provide a stable and predictable income for the government. On the other hand, he added, the ad valorem tax system had been "wantonly abused by certain manufacturers to avoid paying correct taxes."

The official said his company was supporting fair and moderate increases in the excise tax on cigarettes, which would address the concerns of both the government and entire tobacco industry.

Also, Nelson countered charges that PMPMI's tax proposal would effectively kill low and medium priced brands.

"Why would we do that?" he said. "We equally have a stake in (that) market segment."

PMPMI last year bought for about P1 billion Sterling Tobacco Corp., maker of the low-priced brands Bowling Gold, Bowling Green, Miller and Stork.

The firm also invested to produce the mid-priced L&M, a brand under Philip Morris International.

PMPMI is proposing a P1 per pack hike in taxes for all brands, which is expected to raise P4.5 billion for the government.

But Fortune Tobacco Corp. and Associated Anglo American Tobacco Corp.—makers of low and medium priced brands— said on Thursday that PMPMI's proposal would result in a 250-percent increase in the taxes for their brands and only 18 percent increase for their rival's high priced brands.

Dave Gomez, PMPMI public affairs and communications manager, said increasing the rates by percentages would result in huge increases in the tiers because of the higher tax base.

Ronnel W. Domingo

There's plenty of headroom even for a human skyscraper.

Bulgarian Giant
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Creativity must be nurtured.
d that's why we take care of the headaches. We give you a departure om the standard Burbs. Rockwell is a little city that's contained. affic is not sanctioned here. Security runs 24-hours daily. a time of anxiety attacks, that's one less worry.

Despite the peace, we rock. There is always something a-buzz like surprising structures that change the skyline every now and then. Not to mention bargain haunts as well as designer shops, traditional and quirky buys, mainstream and transitional events plus a global choice of restaurants and bars for a diverse lifestyle.

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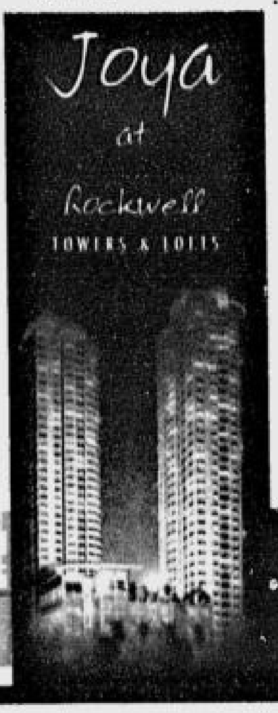

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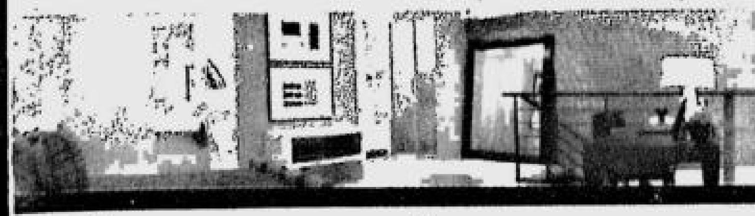

SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Doctors who look forward to rural work

Text and photo by Charles E. Buban

DR. DAYAN Decampong-Sangcopan has never seen a doctor in her hometown of Bayang, a far-flung municipality on the southern shore of Lanao Lake in Lanao del Sur.

"If someone was sick, dying or has a disease, that person had to go to the next town of Binidayan where there is a district hospital or, better still, to Marawi City, but it's on the opposite side of the lake and several hours' drive away," the 31-year-old doctor recalled.

This depressing situation inspired Sangcopan to take up medicine. And she has recently volunteered for assignment to Bayang after the municipality was included in the list where the Leaders for Health project (LHP) would be assigning a doctor.

The LHP program is a partnership of the Department of Health, the Ateneo Graduate School of Business and Pfizer Philippines Foundation. It is aimed at developing a corps of dedicated doctors and committed community leaders who will help address healthcare problems in the poor (fifth- and sixth-class) municipalities of the country.

The doctor-volunteers are required to identify a critical health problem in their respective areas and the corresponding solutions, with the help of the townsfolk, the municipal and/or local government unit.

After four years on the job, the doctors will receive a master's degree in health care management from the Ateneo for free.

During the recent Salubungan sa Marawi City 2004 program where the newest batch of doctor-volunteers were formally welcomed by their community representatives, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit praised the physicians who have decided to work in the barrios despite lucrative offers to work abroad.

Dayrit also thanked the Ateneo and Pfizer for giving the doctor-volunteers a good reason to stay in the country.

Common vision of health

Since its launch in 2002, the LHP program has enabled 20 doctor-volunteers, 20 mayors and 42 community leaders in previously doctorless towns to work together and create a common vision of health.

The doctors were deployed in 20 towns in Surigao del Norte, Western Samar, Biliran and Camarines Sur provinces. Last August, they received their master's degree from the Ateneo.

For the second batch, LHP will be deploying 29 doctor-volunteers to municipalities in Agusan del Norte, Albay, Biliran, Bohol, Camarines Sur, Cebu, Lanao del Sur, Negros Oriental, Northern Samar, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Western Samar and Zamboanga del Sur.

Dayrit said that of 115 doctorless municipalities, only 35 remain unfilled.

"We are nearing our target. Combining the number of doctor-volunteers from the LHP program and the department's classic program, the Doctors to the Barrios, has brought down the deficit significantly," Dayrit said.

Homecoming

Sangcopan finished her medical studies in 1997 at the University of the Visayas-Gullas College of Medicine in Cebu. She said that more than getting a master's degree, the LHP program will give her an opportunity to serve her hometown.

"It's a sort of homecoming for me, too," Sangcopan said.

Doctor-volunteer Sadaila Kapampangan-Raki-in chose to be assigned in the town of Bacolod-Kalawi, a medically underserved municipality located on the eastern shore of Lanao Lake.

"The town I will be assigned to has the same problems as most of the municipalities around the lake: lack of adequate health, water and sanitation infrastructure, malnutrition, widespread cases of skin diseases, diarrhea, mosquito-borne diseases [malaria and dengue] and [lack of] maternal and prenatal care," said Raki-in.

The 36-year-old Mindanao State University College of Medicine graduate said the situation was aggravated by the fact that only a handful of doctors would want to be assigned in the province because of security concerns.

"News on warring families, Muslim separatist rebels and military deployments...would [not] attract doctors to stay here," Raki-in noted.

DOCTOR-volunteers Sadaila Kapampangan-Raki-in and Dayan Decampong-Sangcopan.

Raki-in, who is pregnant with her second child, has asked her parents in Marawi City to take care of her 7-year-old son whom she will be visiting once a week when she starts work in Bacolod-Kalawi.

Sangcopan, on the other hand, will be bringing her two children, aged 2 and 1, with her because her husband is abroad, working.

$800,000 grant

Pfizer president and country manager Gerry Bacarro said the LHP is Pfizer Philippines Foundation's flagship corporate social responsibility project. It is funded by an $800,000 grant from the mother firm, Pfizer Foundation, New York.

The DOH, Pfizer and the Ateneo also organized a donors' forum last year which resulted in pledges of support from various foreign and local organizations.

Dr. Alfredo Bengzon, dean of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business, said an important component of the program is the involvement of local government executives.

"Healthcare should be treated as a community concern and not just of the doctor-volunteer. More than [the doctors'] idealism and willingness to sacrifice, the LHP program also requires the commitment and involvement of the mayors and the rest of the officials," said Bengzon.

This is why the LHP program includes a capacity enhancement workshop given by the Ateneo for officials of local government units, nongovernment organizations and people's organizations.

So far, four capacity enhancement workshops aimed at providing basic knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to build and strengthen the delivery of healthcare systems in communities have been conducted.

Through these workshops, all the stakeholders—the doctors, the mayors and the community leaders—identify and prioritize their health problems and generate municipal strategic health plans.

Parroting humans?

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

FIVE months ago, the Associated Press wrote about the discovery of Johanna Fantova's diary. Fantova, who died two decades ago, had been a librarian at Princeton, although she will be best remembered for her relationship with Albert Einstein in the last years of his life.

One of the more interesting passages deals with the fact that for his 75th birthday, Einstein received a depressed parrot that he named Bibo. While it is not clear why someone would want to give Einstein a depressed parrot, much less whether or not the bird really was unhappy to begin with, Fantova says Einstein decided to cheer up Bibo by telling him, and I quote the AP story, "bad jokes."

Fantova says Bibo did get better (and hopefully more cheerful) with the attention, and in turn thanked his new owner by getting him sick.

It seems that Bibo never appears in the diary again, which leaves us wondering if there might be an ancient parrot out there somewhere telling bad jokes in a German accent.

Parrots and mynas are like humans in that respect: their speech patterns and vocal intonations are defined by their environments. For example, one of my friends has deaf parents, so growing up, he copied the speech patterns he heard on TV. For reasons I have never quite figured out, he spent a lot of time watching BBC television shows, and his accent during his first days at school were apparently confusing to his classmates.

Changing noises

In a study which appears in the Sept. 7 issue of Current Biology, researchers from the Indiana School of Medicine led by biologist Gabriel Beckers (who is now at the Institute of Biology at Leiden University in the Netherlands) prove that parrots, like humans, can change the noises they make by moving their tongues.

Above the trachea of a human sits a two-inch box called the larynx, which is right below the vocal cords. When people speak, air is forced up from the lungs through the larynx to create noise that is then shaped by the teeth, tongue and lips.

Birds, on the other hand, make sounds using a syrinx, which is located at the base of the trachea just above the lungs. The syrinx has several chambers whose membranes vibrate when air passes through them, thus generating noise.

Beckers was not the first to suggest that a parrot can use its tongue to alter the noise into something recognizable, much the same way humans take the sounds produced by the larynx and shape them using their tongues to speak. This theory, however, had not been tested until Beckers and his colleagues came along.

South American parrots

Beckers et al. used feral Monk parakeets—small parrots from South America—captured by a pest control agency in Florida for their experiments. The birds were euthanized and their syrinxes removed and replaced by small speakers that generated noise levels of varying frequency, pitch and volume.

Beckers et al. moved each parakeet's tongue throughout the experiments to see what effect repositioning of the tongue would have on the sounds produced.

What they found was that repositioning the tongue by even as much as a millimeter was enough to alter the sounds emerging from each parakeet's throat.

"By analogy, it's larger than the difference between an A and an O in human speech," Beckers said in the press statement released by Indiana University.

They also found that certain tongue positions generated sounds within specific frequencies that they called formants. In humans, formants are responsible for the characteristic vowel sounds each person makes. In fact, formants are what make each person's voice unique.

Live parrots next time

"This is the first direct evidence that parrots are able to use their large tongues to change the acoustic properties of their vocalizations," said neurobiologist Roderick Suthers, one of the study's co-authors.

Beckers et al. plan to continue their studies, this time using live animals to see how other factors would affect each parrot's individual voice. The movements of the throat and beak vary from bird to bird, as does the length of the trachea, and none of these factors were taken into account during the previous experiments.

In the meantime, we are left to ponder whether or not a parrot's ability to shape sounds means it might not just be mimicking what it hears. Does a pet parrot "parrot" back what it hears, or is it actually holding a conversation with its owner? If there's an easy answer to that one, let me know.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

KIDS' QUIZ WEEK 7

Up close and personal

THE BAND-Aid and Q-tips were born out of frustration; the safety razor was conceived by a traveling salesman who wanted to make it big by inventing something disposable. Get to know the pioneers of your—and your parents'—bathroom cabinet staples. Match the product on the left with the name of its inventor on the right.

Dianne M. Villafuerte

Product
1. tampon
2. contact lens
3. disposable diapers
4. Band-Aid
5. toothpaste tube
6. Q-tips
7. safety razor
8. sunscreen
9. suntan lotion
10. toothbrush

Inventor
a) Maurice Levy
b) Eugen Fick
c) Washington W. Sheffield
d) King Camp Gillete
e) Mary Donovan
f) Eugene Schueller
g) William Addis
h) Dr. Earle Haas
i) Benjamin Green
j) Earle Dickson
k) Leo Gerstenzang

LAST week's answers: 1-d, 2-k, 3-g, 4-f, 5-a, 6-h, 7-j, 8-e, 9-b, 10-l

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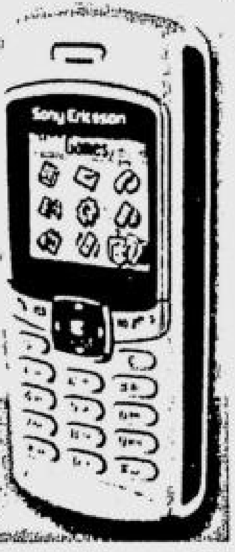

Text for daily puzzles

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

TEXT messages are ubiquitous today. They bind people together, providing comfort (parents demand their children text them if they will be late), contact (teenagers master SMS lingo to send their thoughts quickly), and mobilization (remember Edsa II?).

But just as spam clogs our e-mail, it also has become unavoidable on our cell phones. Ring tones, logos, gossip assault airwaves and inboxes. We are indeed a nation obsessed with entertainment (use your cell to chat with movie stars and download the latest celebrity goings-on) and superficiality (get the latest screen savers and box-office hit tunes). Anyway, we have one of the lowest text rates in the world, and who are we to deny ourselves momentary "coolness"? (We also have a horrible unemployment rate, which leads 10 percent of our population to work beyond our shores, often in hostile conditions.)

Puzzles in mobile phones

A few months ago, my friends Dobbin and Eliza Tan approached me to make puzzles available through text. Together with their sister Eleanor, they run Information Gateway, a company which provides content for telcos. Puzzles are a favorite staple in this column (teachers, students and parents ask for brainteasers, and our annual puzzle contest attracts hundreds of entries). Doing puzzles jump-starts the mind, promotes critical thinking and rigor, and indeed, has been shown to stave off Alzheimer's disease. Most of all, they are fun!

My puzzles range from simple logic and word problems to general information on local and international facts. They are suitable for all ages (my 6-year-old son can tackle many of them).

Here are sample puzzles which have already appeared:

- **What is the next letter in this sequence: CHLO?**

Your first answer may be Q. The alphabet is moved five letters, then four, then three, etc. But E is also acceptable, to spell out a nice girl's name.

- **On which coin do two people appear?**

The 10-peso coin, of course. By the way, it also has two colors. We often take everyday things for granted. Now do you know which two people are on that coin?

- **Which of the following is a prime number: 36, 47 or 51?**

A prime number cannot be divided into any other number (except 1 and itself). 47 is prime. Prime numbers are used in code-making (the fancy word is cryptography), including hi-tech security systems today.

- **When flying, many insects make a sound. How is the sound produced?**

By vibrating their wings. In flight, insects beat their wings at between four and 1,000 beats per second. The beating produces sound waves, which reach our ears.

- **Yesterday I turned off the light and managed to get into bed before it became dark. The light switch and the bed are three meters apart. How did I do that? (Remember that the speed of light is 300,000 kilometers per second.).**

I went to bed during the day.

Fastest runner

- **Now for a joke: Who was the fastest runner in history?**

Adam. He came first in the human race.

- **Who was the president who was NOT a bar topnotcher: Marcos, Macapagal, Quirino?**

Quirino.

- **Jose lives alone in a house, with no visitors. Food and other supplies are delivered. One dark and stormy night he forgot what he was supposed to do, turned off all the lights, and went to bed. The next day he found out that 10 people died because of what he did. What happened?**

Jose was a lighthouse keeper. When he turned off all the lights that night, several ships met accidents.

- **Who does not belong in this group: Mozart, Beethoven, Fonteyn, Strauss?**

Margot Fonteyn was a dancer. The others are all musical composers.

To subscribe, text "puzzle" to Globe at 2346. (This service is only available on Globe for now.) You will get two messages: one with the solution to yesterday's puzzle, and the other containing today's teaser. The right answer is not instantly given, because I want you to think about the puzzle for a while. Each bundle of messages costs P2.50, the same charge for other downloads. Meet you on text!

Thanks to rabbits, ED no longer a problem

By Tessa R. Salazar

MEN with erectile dysfunction (ED) owe a lot to rabbits.

Dr. Erwin Bischoff, pharmaceutical chief research scientist of Bayer Healthcare, says the efficacy and safety of their erection drug Levitra was first tested on rabbits.

Bischoff says the rabbit was the animal of choice because its anatomy and erection physiology was similar to that in humans.

"In rabbits you can see the penis when it is erect. You can measure the length of the erection, and how strong it is. These observations enabled us to test and compare a lot of compounds, and that is important when you're looking for the best choice," Bischoff says.

Bischoff and his team tested more than 4,000 molecules on dozens of rabbits before deciding on the most effective molecule.

"Later on, the studies with humans reflected the same efficacy of the compounds," Bischoff says.

The German doctor smiles and says the rabbits didn't seem to mind getting frequent erections. It surely beats being dissected, which, he assures animal lovers, the rabbits were not subjected to after the experiment.

Stimulating rabbits

While rabbits, like humans, sometimes have erection problems, those used in Bischoff's study were "normal" ones.

But because Levitra does not induce erection without sexual stimulation, Bischoff had to first "stimulate" the male rabbits by introducing nitric oxide into their system. Nitric oxide is a compound that induces relaxation and is produced in penile tissue during sexual stimulation.

"We injected that into the animal together with the drug, and the animal gets an erection. They were nice and helpful little rabbits," Bischoff says with a grin.

He was in the country recently to speak at a SWIM (sexual wellness in men) Foundation promotional tour.

Important sexual organ

Bischoff says that contrary to what many people think, the most important sexual organ of the man is not the penis.

"It's the brain," he says. "If there's no stimulation [in the brain], if you do not feel anything, why should something happen?"

He explains that the brain sends a signal to the penile tissue whenever it receives a sexual stimulus. The blood vessels in the penis dilate and the penis becomes engorged with blood, which we see as an erection.

He says the difference between Levitra and other ED drugs was that the former is a very potent PDE 5 inhibitor. One only needs a very small amount of the drug for it to be effective.

Levitra, which has gained popularity alongside other erection drugs as Pfizer's Viagra and Eli Lilly's Cialis, gets its advantage from its fast-acting effect (10 to 20 minutes after taking the pill).

Wide range of choices

Urologist Dennis P. Serrano of the Philippine General Hospital says the advent of PDE 5 inhibitor drugs has made life a lot easier for ED patients.

"You just have to pop a pill. And that can even be very spontaneous. Partners don't need to know about it," he says.

In the '70s and '80s, Serrano says, doctors had to use vacuum pumps to create artificial erection in their patients. The penis of the patient is put inside the pump and air is sucked out of the chamber. When vacuum is created, blood is drawn to the penis, creating an artificial erection. To maintain the erection when the pump is removed, a rubber band is fastened at the base of the penis to keep the blood in, and it stays there until the man has had intercourse.

There was also the so-called "eternal erection" which was attained through a silicone prosthesis in the penis. Problem was, even if the patient had no use for an erection, the penis would still be up, and this could be an embarrassing sight.

Serrano says, "You can just imagine how many complications, infections and implant failures had developed then."

Injections

Another alternative was for doctors to train their patients to inject drugs directly to their penises using fine needles.

"They were halfway out of the room before you could even explain the whole procedure," he says. "It was a very artificial thing. Imagine, you're in an intimate sexual encounter then you would excuse yourself to go to the bathroom and inject your penis to get an immediate erection."

ED patients today are thus lucky to have a wide range of choices of drugs.

"This is the beauty of having several different molecules belonging to one class of drugs," he says.

"Our role as physicians is to first determine that the drug the patient will get is safe [given] the other co-morbidities or other illnesses he has. Then, whatever side effects or untoward reaction he experiences will be managed or controlled. And then, if he is not satisfied with the efficacy of the drug, our role is to give him another choice."

Erectile dysfunction patients find life less enjoyable

FILIPINO males with erectile dysfunction (ED), the consistent inability to maintain an erection sufficient for satisfactory sexual intercourse, feel less masculine and have less enjoyment in life. In addition, they are missing out a lot on their sex life, particularly their romantic relationship with their partner.

Dr. Lester Garcia, head of the Urology Department of the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City, says these were the sentiments of his ED patients, and they were similar to those expressed by the respondents of an ED survey in Metro Manila.

The ED survey was conducted from June 9 to July 15 by Eli Lilly (Philippines) Inc. on 50 men with ED to determine their sexual attitudes and needs and to assess the emotional impact of the disease on them and their partners.

Eli Lilly manufactures the ED drug Cialis.

"Like the survey respondents, my ED patients were at first [hesitant] to consult a doctor or seek medical treatment because they were ashamed to admit that they have ED," Garcia says.

However, with the information and awareness campaigns of medical associations and pharmaceutical companies that produce ED medications, Garcia says ED patients are now more open in their attitude toward the condition.

Most of Garcia's patients are from Metro Manila and belong to the middle and upper classes.

"Perhaps it's because they are the ones who could afford to buy ED medications," he says.

Disappointed partners

Garcia says his patients have been suffering from ED for six months before they consulted a doctor.

Like the survey respondents, his patients complained that their sex life had suffered a lot and that they would feel more masculine if they were able to obtain and maintain an erection. Others had complained that their partners were disappointed and that they would enjoy life more if they didn't have ED.

Although they were taking ED medication, the patients complained that the medication was controlling their sex life.

"[They were] looking for an ED medication that could reverse their ED so they could return to normal sexual function and bring back intimacy into their lives. They also wanted an ED medication that had less side effects like headache and dizziness, the most common side effects of the ED medications available in the market," Garcia said.

Different medications

Garcia tells his patients that all the oral ED medications available in the market are effective.

However, Garcia says, it is also important for the patient to know that there are differences between the drugs: some remain effective for up to 36 hours while others work up to only four hours only; some are affected by what a person eats or drinks.

ED occurs when blood flow to the penis is diminished. Experts believe that many ED cases may be due to both physical and psychological factors. High blood pressure, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and certain medications are associated with a large number of ED cases.

Other risk factors include nerve damage, kidney or liver disease, other vascular conditions, cigarette smoking and excessive alcohol consumption.

Cord blood banking expert to hold lectures in Manila

FILIPINO health workers and specialists, as well as patients and their families, will have an opportunity to learn more about stem cell therapy from no less than a world-renowned expert, Dr. Teo Cheng Peng, who will conduct a series of lectures about recent developments in this field.

Dr. Teo, a specialist in hemato-oncology, is the medical director of StemCord Private Limited of Singapore, a stem cell bank where cord blood can be stored for future treatment. Through this facility, families can collect their babies' umbilical cord blood and preserve their stem cells, which they can use, when needed, to fight various diseases and injuries. Properly stored in deep freeze, stem cells can remain potent for as long as 21 years.

Speaking engagements

Dr. Teo will lecture before 500 international delegates at the Indo Pacific International Congress on Sept. 24, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Medicine Auditorium of the University of Santo Tomas.

On Sept. 25, at 7 p.m., he will hold a public symposium on umbilical cord blood banking at the Century Park Hotel in Malate, Manila. The symposium is free of charge. It is sponsored by Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc., a foundation of the Lucio C. Tan Group of Companies and the Association of Asia Brewery Medical Scholars.

The talk will center on what expecting parents should know about banking their baby's umbilical cord blood. For free tickets call StemCord Philippines at 373-3311 to 18 or 373-7359 or Phoebe Tsai Te at 0918-9180329.

On Sept. 28, Dr. Teo will be the guest resource person at the Women in Media Bulong Pulungan at 12 noon at the Westin Philippine Plaza. The panel will include Filipino doctors Rebecca B. Singson of the Asian Hospital and Medical Center and Makati Medical Center and Lora Tansengco of the Philippine General Hospital and Asian Hospital, both of whom have started collecting cord blood for banking from their own patients.

Growing old gracefully

MEDICAL FILES

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

A FEW months ago, I had the privilege of meeting a living icon of the broadcast industry, Dely Magpayo, more popularly known as Tiya Dely. In the late 1950s, I remember our family gathering close to our radio as her program theme song started and her familiar spiel was heard: "Ang inyong...Tiya Dely."

Now at 84, she still hosts her long-running program at dzRH, and with her trim figure and the spring in her steps, she looks 10 years younger than her biological age.

Tiya Dely remains very active. To keep herself fit and healthy, she has a simple formula: she sleeps eight hours a day, eats healthy food and remains active by exercising regularly.

Growing old gracefully is every senior citizen's goal. Avoiding a sedentary lifestyle is a key factor in remaining fit during one's golden years. Those who feel that their body starts to shut down at dusk because of aches and pains are doing themselves a big disservice by thinking that exercise might worsen their arthritis or other body ailments.

Even those who had been previously active tend to be more sedentary as they push beyond 60.

A sedentary lifestyle is a risk factor at any age and the American Heart Association has added lack of physical activity to its list of preventable risk factors for coronary heart disease, which remains the No. 1 killer of people over 65 years old.

Medical literature teems with scientific evidence suggesting that exercise, at any age, builds muscle and bones, reduces high blood pressure and the incidence of heart disease, diabetes and colon cancer, and alleviates the pain of arthritis and depression.

Its short-term benefits include improving the quality of sleep and one's sense of well-being.

Many studies have shown that exercise contributes to a longer life span, even for couch potatoes who become slightly more active.

Fitness experts recommend three approaches in the elderly to improve fitness: lifestyle modification, resistance training and aerobic exercise.

Lifestyle modification

An elderly person must find every opportunity to stay active within his usual daily routine. Walking to the bus station, using the stairs instead of the elevator, doing household chores, parking the car yourself and walking to the building instead of availing of valet service are examples of what are called "surrogate exercises."

Medical experts say sedentary people who wish to become more physically active need only 30 minutes of moderately intensive physical activity during the course of each day.

One does not need 30 minutes of programmed exercise if he is too busy for it. The 30 minutes can be made up of these surrogate exercises, and one can already become a physically active person. Consistency, however, is important.

Resistance training

The objective of this fitness regimen is to increase muscle strength over time by progressively increasing the resistance against which a muscle generates force. This can be done by lifting weights and progressively increasing the amount of weight over several days. Two sessions of 20 to 30 minutes per week are recommended.

Research have shown substantial increases in physical functioning in very elderly people—those over 90 years old—who had resistance training.

Muscle atrophy and bone loss can be prevented. Lower extremity resistance training increases strength, balance and bone mass. This provides excellent protection against falls and hip fracture.

Aerobic exercise

This activity increases the heart rate for an extended period of time. The target heart rate for aerobic exercise is anywhere between 50 and 70 percent of one's maximum predicted heart rate, which is calculated by subtracting one's age from 220.

For an 80-year-old, the maximum predicted heart rate is 220 - 80 = 140. The target heart rate would be 50 to 70 percent of 140, or between 70 and 98.

Aerobic exercise includes jogging, swimming, jumping rope, brisk walking, bicycling and dancing.

It's always best to see one's doctor first before starting any exercise regimen as there are some heart conditions that may preclude one's capacity to exercise. This is especially true if one has suffered a heart attack, has any condition that might cause heart failure, is taking medicine for high blood pressure or for a heart condition, is over 50 and is not used to regular vigorous exercise.

Workshop on environment, wastewater laws set Sept. 22-23

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural and Resources-Environmental Management Bureau Region 3, in partnership with the Water Environment Association of the Philippines Inc., will conduct a seminar-workshop on "Wastewater Treatment Technologies and Updates on Relevant Water/Wastewater Environment Regulations" on Sept. 22-23 at the Central Park Hotel, Hacienda Luisita, San Miguel, Tarlac City.

Regional director Lormelyn Claudio said the workshop aims to appraise environmental managers or pollution control officers, particularly those in the livestock industry, on the latest environmental water/wastewater laws and treatment technologies and updates on DENR policies and programs.

The seminar-workshop also aims to make farm owners and managers understand and appreciate the necessity of utilizing efficient and effective wastewater treatment facilities in compliance with the law and as part of their social responsibility in environment protection and proper management. Experts in the field will exchange information and share experiences and best practices.

This is the fourth activity of WEAP in its commitment to preserve a clean water environment, said president Dr. Pag-asa Gaspillo. For details, queries and reservations, please call Hershey Vasallo or Reese Rubiano of DENR-EMB Reg. 3 at (045) 961-5203/6 or Joy Macasaya of WEAP at 371-9790 or 410-1119.

Air-cleaning solution proven to be effective

IT IS the air in our homes, schools, workplaces and other indoor environments that has the most severe impact on our respiratory systems. To begin with, indoor air is several times unhealthier than outdoor air, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency.

The reason indoor air pollution is more severe than outdoor pollution is that nature's most powerful air-cleansing agents have a chance to break down pollution outside. Unfortunately, our airtight, energy-efficient homes block out these natural air cleaners, while trapping and recirculating airborne pollutants inside.

Air purifiers

As indoor air quality grows worse, air purifiers become more popular. However, most air cleaners on the market are simply inadequate, and very few actually make a difference.

Despite the fact that most air cleaners in the market are unable to do the job adequately, since most are filter-based, it is vital to have some means of removing as much particulate from the air as possible.

There is one air-cleaning solution though that has proven to be effective. Goodsphere Air Revitalizer System purifies air like no other product in the market today. These portable machines do not use filters, chalk cartridges or chemical additives, but instead purify the air the same way nature does.

Goodsphere only uses botanical essences that contain antibacterial and antifungal properties that bind unpleasant odors and pollutants while purifying the air with active ingredients.

One such essence is eucalyptus which has been proven to effectively prevent and ease attacks of asthma.

One of the most enduring medical uses for eucalyptus—and not surprisingly, one of the best, substantiated—is its power to ease nasal congestion and quell cough.

For details, call 373-7396 to 97 or 373-7399, e-mail goodsphere@iajcorp.com or visit www.iajcorp.com.

US consumer prices up 0.1%

WASHINGTON—Consumer prices barely budged in August, suggesting that inflation isn't currently a problem for the economy and Federal Reserve policy-makers can stick with a gradual approach to raising interest rates.

The government's closely watched inflation barometer, the Consumer Price Index, rose by just 0.1 percent in August from the previous month, the Labor Department reported Thursday.

Falling prices for clothes, cars and airfares helped to temper rising prices for medical care, education and some food items.

The tiny rise came after consumer prices dipped 0.1 percent in July.

Excluding energy and food prices, which can swing widely from month to month, "core" prices also inched up by 0.1 percent in August for the third month in a row.

That suggested that most other prices are remaining well behaved, analysts said.

From an economic point of view, the inflation picture was slightly better than some analysts were expecting.

They were forecasting a 0.2 percent rise in both the overall CPI and for core prices.

A slowing in economic growth in the second quarter, analysts said, made it harder for some companies to raise prices and induced others to cut them, thus improving the inflation climate.

As "the economy perks up, pricing power may reappear, but, for now, the outlook in the near term is benign," said Steve Stanley, chief economist at RBS Greenwich Capital.

Analysts said the CPI report bodes well for the Fed maintaining a measured approach to raising short-term interest rates.

The Fed is widely expected next week to boost a key rate to 1.75 percent, from 1.50 percent, which would be its third rate increase this year.

Analysts say rates are still low by historical standards and need to go up to help prevent inflation from becoming a problem in the future.

The latest picture of prices comes less than two months before Election Day. President George W. Bush has a markedly more positive view than his Democratic rival John Kerry of how the economy and the nation's job market are doing.

Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan says the economy hit a bit of a rough patch in the late spring and summer, but now appears to be gaining ground.

Meanwhile, new claims for unemployment benefits rose last week by a seasonally adjusted 16,000 to 333,000, the Labor Department said. The pace of layoffs, however, has slowed over the last year. *AP*

Opec to raise quotas

VIENNA—Opec's decision to raise its quotas to better reflect its real oil output has left the markets unmoved and looks a failed bid to bring down soaring prices, analysts said on Thursday.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries declared here Wednesday that it was lifting its official production ceiling by one million barrels daily to 27 million barrels per day (mbd) from Nov. 1.

"As long as the price is still high we would like to give the signal, a psychological signal, that we want the price down," Opec president Purnomo Yusgiantoro said.

The move was welcomed by consumers as a goodwill gesture on the part of the 11-member cartel that pumps about 30 percent of the world's oil.

Opec took "the best possible decision given its limited room to maneuver," said Claude Mandil, the director of the International Energy Agency (IEA) who is attending an oil seminar at the Opec headquarters in Vienna.

He said the cartel had taken a "purely psychological decision but one that shows that it is intent on trying keep up relatively high production levels not only now, but in months to come."

Opec had few options when it gathered here for its 132nd ministerial meeting on Wednesday.

Since its members are almost producing at full capacity, the only way of sending a soothing message to the market was to bring the quotas closer to its real output which was raised in July and August in response to record prices.

Frederic Lasserre, an analyst at Société Générale, said the game between the cartel and the market had become "something of a public relations exercise."

The quota hike "shows Opec's willingness to do whatever it can to ease the price of oil a little," he said. *AFP*

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Singapore may post hefty growth in '04

SINGAPORE—Singapore may post double-digit economic growth this year, above the official forecast of 8-9 percent, Manpower Minister Ng Eng Hen said Friday.

It was the first time a Cabinet minister has publicly said the economy, which has rebounded sharply from the impact of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) crisis last year, could grow in a double-digit range.

"The good news is that Singapore's economy is recovering," Ng said in a speech to a telecommunications union.

"Singapore may even register double-digit economic growth this year. More new jobs will be created."

The last time Singapore's gross domestic product enjoyed double-digit growth was in 1993 and 1994.

GDP contracted in 1998 due to the Asian financial crisis and in 2001 following a recession.

Despite SARS, the economy managed to chalk up 1.1 percent growth in 2003.

A median forecast of private economists surveyed last month by the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the city-state's central bank, said the economy should grow 8.4 percent this year and slow down to 5 percent in 2005.

Singapore's elder statesmen Lee Kuan Yew has said the economy could post a sustainable annual growth rate of 4-6 percent in the next decade, lifted by the giant economies of China and India.

Ng in his speech Friday urged workers to continue learning new skills to keep pace with the restructuring of the economy in a bid to maintain its competitive edge.

"You all know that the wages of a factory worker in China are a fraction of those in Singapore," he said.

"We have no choice but to look for growth in value-added industries, for example the biomedical and creative industries, in order to propel our economy forward." *AFP*

Sony defends MGM bid

TOKYO—Sony Corp. president Kunitake Ando defended the Japanese electronics and entertainment giant's decision to buy Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. as financially sound, but acknowledged he was relieved Time Warner dropped out of the bidding.

"We had decided on a limit, and we were definitely not going to push beyond that if it went above that," he told a group of reporters Thursday on the sidelines of a Tokyo marketing convention. "To be honest, we were relieved Time Warner withdrew first."

On Monday, Sony announced an agreement for a Sony-led consortium to buy the Hollywood studio in a $3 billion (euro 2.47 billion) deal that would add more than 4,100 movies, including the James Bond series and "Rocky," to Sony's library.

Time Warner had initially been seen as the front-runner to acquire MGM, but Sony raised its offer, setting off a bidding war that Time Warner concluded it did not want.

MGM said its management will recommend the proposed merger to its board by Sept. 27. The sale is also subject to regulatory approval.

Ando refused to give further details until a final deal is reached.

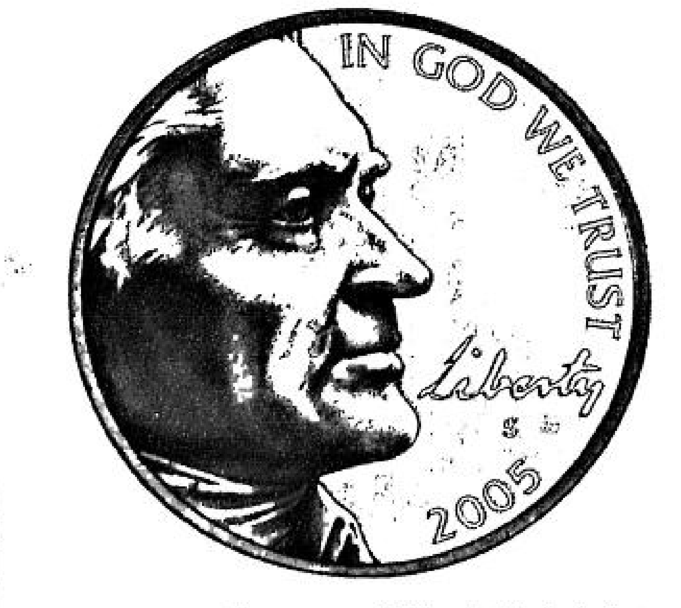
Analysts have questioned the ability of Sony to cash in on the movie deal to boost its core electronics business at a time when the Tokyo-based company is struggling to ward off cheaper rivals amid intensifying global competition in audio and digital products.

Ando said the value of possessing entertainment content is growing because of booming DVD sales around the world, the popularity of digital movies as well as multi-channel cable TV in the United States.

"The importance of expanding our film business and library in the long term is something we have been thinking about for a long time," he said.

Also Thursday, Sony said it was beefing up marketing through the end of the year to grab 30 percent of the audiovisual market in Japan, including flat-panel TVs, digital cameras, portable music players, camcorders and other gadgets.

Last year, when Sony was criticized as having fallen behind rivals in flat-panel TVs and DVD recorders, it had about 25 percent of the Japanese market. *AP*



THE UNITED States Mint announced Friday that it is issuing two newly designed 5-cent coins (nickels) in 2005 with a new image of President Thomas Jefferson on the obverse (heads side) of both nickels in Washington, DC. The reverse (tails side) of the first nickel shown here will be an American bison design that is reminiscent of the Buffalo Nickel.

AFP

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Cocopea endorses Abad appointment as DepEd Secretary

DR. JUANITO Acanto, president of the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (Cocopea), recently endorsed the appointment of Florencio Abad as Secretary of the Department of Education.

Cocopea is an umbrella organization composed of the four major educational associations in the Philippines, accounting for some 3000 educational institutions all over the country, with a population of some 9 million students and 100,000 teachers. These associations are: the Catholic Educational Associations of the Philippines, the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (Pacu), the Association of Christian Schools, Colleges and Universities (Acscu), and the Philippine Association of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities (Papscu).

According to Acanto, the Cocopea administrators of member schools are convinced that Abad is eminently qualified for the position of education secretary. Acanto pointed out that Abad's credentials and his track record in the private education sector and in government have made him a rare combination of a scholarwith hands-on knowledge of academic matters and an efficient executive with technical expertise in various facets of business management. Abad holds a Master's degree in Public Administration, which he pursued as a Ford Foundation and Asia Foundation scholar at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University from 1993 to 1994. He also finished Bachelor of Science, major in Business Administration, and Bachelor of Laws at the Ateneo College of Law, the latter as a President's Scholar from 1980 to 1985.

Acanto cited Abad's experience as a lecturer at the Ateneo School of Government, the Ateneo Graduate School of Business and the Ateneo College of Arts and Sciences, and as research director of the Ateneo Center for Social Policy and Public Affairs.

The Cocopea president likewise pointed out that Abad's executive capabilities that were honed over a period of 18 years or three terms as the elected Representative of the lone district of Batanes Islands will serve him in good stead in managing the operations of DepEd, the country's largest bureaucracy consisting of over 600,000 teachers, officials and rank-and-file personnel.

Acanto said that by and large, Abad would bring to his job a fine record of competence and integrity, coupled with the brilliance of a legal mind that could empower him to infuse new ideas and fresh insights into the educational system, thus effecting urgently needed reforms and making a difference in the staid world of the academe.

AB FOODS NOW EXPORTS OVALTINE TO SRI LANKA

Associated British Food and Beverages Philippines Inc (AB Foods) recently formalized an agreement with Scan Products Holding Co, Lt to distribute Ovaltine in the Republic of Sri Lanka. Signing the agreement are (seated, from left): Vivek Chandra, president and CEO of AB Foods; W.T. Ellawala chair of the board of Scan Products; Nihal Perera, general manager of Scan Products; and Marivic Mabuti, finance director of AB Foods. Witnessing the event are key members of the AB Foods and Beverages Phils Inc management team: Regina Pineda, marketing manager; Nestor Nuguid, operations director; Avelina Chiquillo, purchasing and export director; and Celso Avena, materials planning and logistics director.

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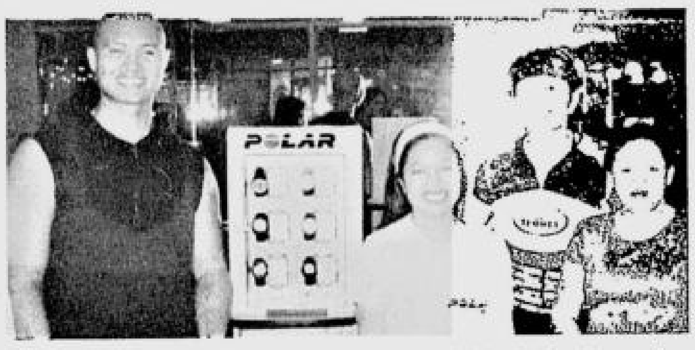
REWARDS OF A MONTEREY FRANCHISE

Entrepreneurial types who attended the Philippine International Franchise Expo 2004, a Philippine-hosted international franchise conference and expo, recognized the strong profit potential of franchising a Monterey Neighborhood Meatshop. The country's leading meat retailer, Monterey Foods Corp, joined almost a hundred other exhibitors at the World Trade Center. Monterey has introduced many innovations in meat-retailing and recently inaugurated its first modern meatshop-convenience store in Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque City. Existing Monterey Neighborhood Meatshops and new franchisees are expected to adapt to the new look.

POLAR WM SERIES LAUNCH



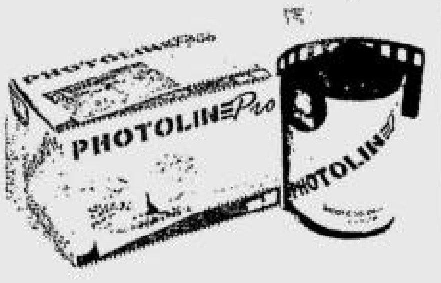
Polar recently launched its Weight Management Series through an event dubbed 'The Polar Weight Management Challenge' held at Gold's Gym Galleria. The new Polar Weight Management Series is the latest innovative product from Polar of Finland, which is designed to cover both nutrition and exercise habits of users, giving them personal recommendations for daily calorie intake and weekly exercise. At the launch were Polar product supervisor Marne Escotido (2nd from left) and Gold's Gym Galleria spinning class instructor David Chua (2nd from right) with the winners of the challenge. The new Polar Weight Management Series, exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Sports Resources Inc is now available at Toby's Sports and Hobbies, The Fitness Shop, and Gold's Gym Body Shop. For inquiries, call 671-1565.

OPENING OF WESTERN UNION'S AGENT LOCATION IN GREECE

Western Union Financial Services Inc, president Christina Gold (second from left) is joined by Olympic medal winners Hrysopiyi Devetzi (left) and Ilias Iliadis (second from right) at the ribbon cutting of the 200,000th Western Union agent location in Athens, Greece. Christopher C. Varvias (far right), who operates nearly 600 locations throughout Greece, helps to celebrate this significant business milestone.

ProductFILES

New color print film launched



PHOTOLINE, one of the leading providers of quality photo services, has introduced its own professional quality color print film in the market. Available in 24 and 36 exposures, the Photoline film is enjoying wide acceptance from both amateur and professional photographers due to its superior color quality and reasonable price. Aside from the color print films, Photoline also recently launched its own brand of picture frames and photo albums. Photoline's services range from one-hour developing and studio shots to the latest digital cameras and accessories. This year, Photoline plans to open more branches to better serve its growing clientele who want quality products and services at everyday low prices.

VAN DER HORST NAMES INSURER, CONSULTANT

Van Der Horst Technologies Phils Inc, a multinational company providing engineering services, appoints AsianLife and General Assurance Corp (AsianLife & General), as its insurer in providing life insurance benefits for its executives and employees and Gotuaco del Rosario & Associates (GRA) as its insurance consultant. In photo are (from left) GRA vice president Precie Banes, AsianLife & General EVP Bobby Alfonso, AsianLife & General president and CEO Eulogio Mendoza, Van Der Horst general manager John Ferrier, GRA 1st EVP and COO Arthur Panganiban, Van Der Horst finance and admin manager Mely Bilolo, and Van Der Horst HR manager Russel Gabanes.

LIONS CLUB
MUNTINLUPA

MUNTINLUPA LIONS CLUB TURNOVER CEREMONY

Photo shows the turnover ceremony held at the residence of incoming president of Muntinlupa Lions Club 2004-2005 Lion Leonora 'Norie' Suva last July 10. With her is incoming secretary Lion Belinda Domingo and incoming treasurer Lion Erlinda Deocales, outgoing president Lion Valeta Reyes, Lion Rose Mendoza and outgoing secretary Aldam Gaiser.

BMW 3 Series at 0% interest up to 4 years

BMW Philippines recently introduced the strongest financial customer incentive in the luxury car segment with its latest easy ownership plans. For only 25 percent downpayment, customers can drive home a brand new 3 Series and enjoy interest free payments for up to 4 years on the 318 M Sport, 325 Executive, and 325 M Sport variants. 0 percent interest plans for the 316i, 318 Edition, and 318 Executive models can also be stretched up to 3 years on a 25 percent downpayment, giving BMW owners the freedom to choose the 3 Series variant and financing package that best suits them. Furthermore, customers can avail of BMW's free 5 year Service Inclusive offer and still benefit from interest free payments from 2 to 3 years, depending on the 3 Series variant of their choice. Customers can also benefit from other easy purchase options, such trade-in packages and preferential cash deals, available at all authorized BMW dealers. And with BMW's innovative 24-hour test drive offer, potential buyers can drive home a BMW 3 Series for a full day, to experience the pleasure of owning a BMW.

BITS Clips

Photo seminar

LEARN the basics of conventional and digital photography and digital imaging in one seminar package in three full-days for three consecutive weeks. Seminar venues and schedules: 1) Paseo Center (1st Floor) Paseo de Roxas Avenue, Makati City - Sept. 18, Sept. 25, Oct. 2 / 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; 2) Cyber Mall, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City - Sept. 19, Sept. 26, Oct. 3, / 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For inquiries, call Enelyn at 687-6770 to 74, 687-5070 or Irma at 718- 1536/724-2131.

New Balance Badminton Cup

ON Oct. 16 and 17, all roads lead to Club 650 Badminton Center in Libis, Quezon City for badminton enthusiasts, to vie for the coveted award for the first "N is For Fit New Balance Badminton Challenge." Participants will undergo pre-event's games on Sept. 18, 19, 23 and Oct. 2 at Club 650 to determine the level of each participating pair. The two-day event will be capped off by a 20 percent off on all New Balance products at Planet sports Rockwell, New Balance Glorietta and Festival Mall from Sept. 1 until the day of the tournament. For inquiries, call 410-4399; 0917-7961345 or 0917-841-9835.

Women's Lifestyle Exhibit

IN TRIBUTE to the Filipino women's femininity and in support to Filipino women's advocacy, Philtrade Exhibits is presenting "All About Her, A Women's Lifestyle Exhibition and Bazaar" on Sept. 18 to 19 at The Forum, PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City. The event will feature product launches, presentations and information dissemination about women's issues, home life and wellness. For more details, call Philtrade Exhibits at 825-0804/825-3482.

Largest human rainbow

THE POLYTECHNIC University of the Philippines (PUP) ushers its centennial year with a pitch to beat the Guinness world record for the largest human rainbow set by the Hongkong Polytechnic University on October 2002. Today, a myriad of students, alumni, faculty and staff will come together at the Luneta Grandstand and arrange themselves in to the spectral colors of the rainbow.

Training program in Sped

LINK Center for the Deaf, together with DepEd-NCR started the first of a series of seminars in Special Education last July 24 at the Occupational Safety and Health Center in Agham Road, QC. The 2nd and 3rd part will be on Sept. 18 and Oct. 8, focusing on management of early intervention programs and integrative approach to Sped. For inquiries, call Link Center at 426-0382 or 0920-5574831.

The Silva Method

EFFECTIVE use of one's mind to manage change and achieve success is what the world-renowned Silva Method Program offers on Sept. 18 and 25 at the Hotel Intecon Makati. Free lifetime review of coursework worldwide and make your own 'miracles'. Text 0920-8332507 or call 889-8582 to reserve.

COUNTRY BANKERS PAYS CLAIM

Country Bankers once again manifested its total and continuing commitment of providing reliable service to its long-time business partner in the countryside - the Rural Bankers. Just recently, it paid claim benefits amounting to P408,270.99 to benificiaries of the late Pablo Cadungog, a farmer-borrower of Rural Bank of Sta. Catalina in Negros Oriental who is insured under the the credit group life (CGL) plan. In photo during the awarding of the benefit check are (from left) Zenaida Teves, president/GM of Rural Bank of Sta. Catalina; Fedelisa Cadungog, wife of the late Pablo Cadungog; Nilda Bustillo, CBLIC CGL representative; and Rhea Bonita Cadungog, youngest daughter of the deceased insured.

FRES
HONEY
LEMON

SANDARA ENDORSES FRES CANDY

Sandara Park is now the official endorser of Fres Honey Lemon Mouth Perfume Candy. She is currently doing a series of TV commercials for the product which is the newest candy variant of Inbisco Phils, makers of Fres Mouth Perfume Candies. Shown are (from left): Jerry Telan, talent manager of the ABS-CBN Talent Center, Sandara and Rico Roa, president of Brandworks, advertising agency of Inbisco Phils.

Shopwise' Family Fashionista '04 search

THIS year, Shopwise is looking for the most fashionable individuals to vie for the Familya Fashionista 2004, where winners can win up to P300,000. There will be five categories: Daddy Groovy, Mama Bongga, Bro' Dacious, Sassy Sis and Cool Kiddo. Winners in all categories will receive P50,000 each plus a one-year modeling contract with Shopwise. To join, all interested parties must first make a minimum purchase requirement of P500 worth of any fashion items at any Shopwise branch. Purchases must be made from Sept. 1 to 9 only. To register for the contest, simply present the receipts together with one 5x7 full-color body shot, one 8x10 full-color head shot and a short essay on why you should be selected the Familya Fashionista for 2004. Essays may be written in English or Tagalog. Deadline for all entries is on Sept. 19.

BUSINESS

Asiana to get more flights to Clark

By Clarissa S. Batino

KOREAN carrier Asiana Airlines will be given additional flights to Clark airport in line with the Arroyo administration's efforts to spur economic activity in the former American air base.

Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the government would soon hold talks with the Korean government to improve the Philippine-Korea air service agreement. A favorable agreement would call for more flights between the Philippines and Korea.

"We plan to give the Korean government additional frequency entitlements. We expect that they will also give us additional entitlements," said the transport chief.

Asiana currently mounts only chartered flights to Clark five times a week. A regular passenger flight will have to be approved by the Civil Aeronautics Board.

It also flies seven times a week to Manila and mounts two cargo flights a week.

Of the 17 flights a week granted by the government to Korean carriers, Asiana accounted for eight flights while Korean Air got nine.

Asiana said it was expecting a 14-percent increase in tourist arrivals from South Korea this year to about 400,000, from 350,000 in 2003.

Asiana regional manager Hyun Il Kim said the Korean carrier was planning to increase its flights to the Philippines by the fourth quarter to maintain a 25-percent share in the tourist arrivals from Korea.

Banks' NPL ratio rising

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY's commercial banks posted a higher ratio of non-performing loans to total loans for the second straight month in July.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday reported that the NPLs of universal and commercial banks by the end of July rose to 13.92 percent of total loans from 13.77 percent as of end-June. In May, the banks' NPL ratio to total loans was placed at 13.53.

But the BSP noted that the end-July level still reflected an improvement of 1.46 percentage points from the 15.38 percent a year ago.

"The slight increase in this month's NPL ratio was mainly due to the 1.2 percent contraction in lending that outpaced the 0.1 percent or P250-million decline in NPLs," the BSP reported.

Net of inter-bank loans, the NPL ratio went up to 16.54 percent in July from 16.41 percent in June. However, this was better than the 17.97 percent ratio in the same period a year ago.

As of end-July, the sector's total real and other properties owned and acquired (Ropoa) amounted to P207.11 billion as against gross assets of P3.64 trillion.

The ratio of Ropoa to gross assets barely changed to 5.7 percent from 5.68 percent a month ago. This was because the rate of reduction in gross assets outpaced the reduction in Ropoas.

Restructured loans as a ratio of total loans also went down by 0.13 percentage points to 7.58 percent from 7.71 percent last month, as the restructured loans fell by 2.7 percent.

Of the total restructured loans, the share of non-performing loans rose by 4.34 percent to 54.53 percent, from 50.19 percent last month. Non-performing restructured loans went up by 5.7 percent to P73.51 billion.

The industry's non-performing assets —which represent the NPLs and the Ropoas—slightly rose to 12.32 percent from 12.29 percent last month.

In the meantime, the NPA coverage ratio—which measures the amount of loan loss reserves as a ratio of NPAs—narrowed to 32.44 percent from 32.56 percent last month.

The NPL coverage ratio settled at 52.98 percent, down from 53.46 percent in June.

The BSP expects the sector's NPL ratio to improve significantly as banks take aggressive measures in disposing their assets to meet the deadline for the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle law.

The SPV Law intends to help banks get rid of their non-performing assets by giving them tax breaks.

Two more power plants to be sold

THE POWER Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) will bid out two more National Power Corp. hydroelectric plants this month—the 1.2-megawatt (MW) Loboc plant in Bohol and the 400-kilowatt Cawayan plant in Bicol.

PSALM vice president for asset valuation and disposal Froilan Tampinco said in a presentation before industry stakeholders yesterday that the Loboc plant would be auctioned off on Sept. 28 and the Cawayan plant two days after.

Eleven investors, a mix of local and foreign firms, expressed interest in acquiring the Loboc minihydro plant, he said.

The Cawayan minihydro plant, meanwhile, would be auctioned off to four potential investors, all local firms.

The Sept. 30 bidding for the Cawayan plant would already be the second for the generation facility as the original auction was declared a failure.

Tampinco said the bidding was declared a failure because all bids fell short of PSALM's estimated floor price for the Napocor generation asset. *Abigail L. Ho*

Masinloc plant bidding terms remain, says PSALM

By Abigail L. Ho

DESPITE stiff opposition from a number of foreign investors, the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) will retain the "right to match" provision in the bidding terms for the 620-megawatt (MW) Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales.

PSALM vice president for asset valuation and disposal Froilan Tampinco said the provision would stay but PSALM was considering some modifications in the bidding terms.

PSALM's proposed modification, he said, would give prospective foreign bidders for the Masinloc plant more flexibility in forming consortia with local members.

Prospective bidders that will form consortia, he said, would be given ample time to conduct due diligence of the property with their potential partners.

Because of this, he said the Oct. 27 bidding schedule for the Masinloc plant might be pushed back.

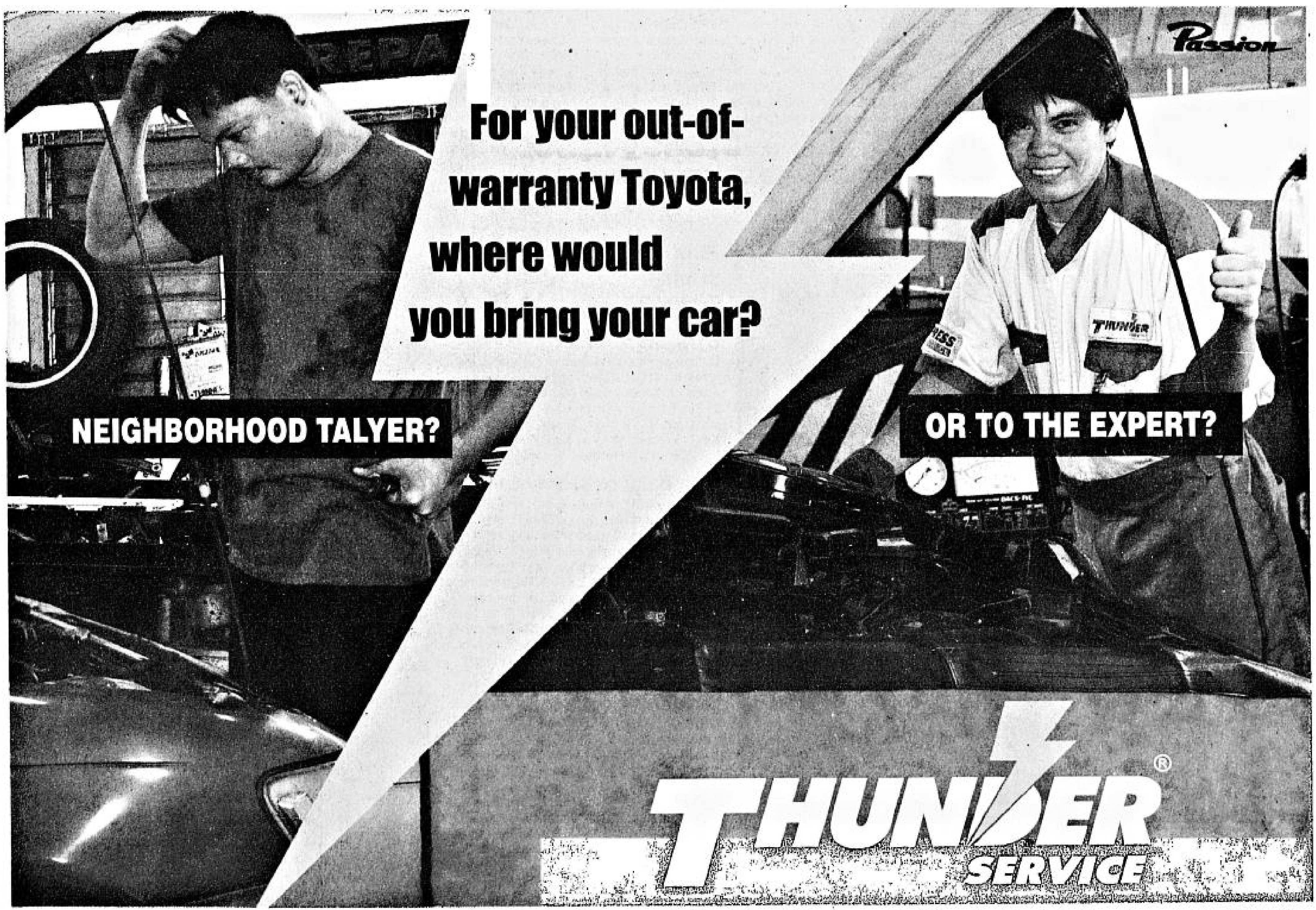
Foreign bidders are questioning the right to match provision in the bidding terms for the coal-fired plant as it will give Filipino bidders a chance to match the highest bid from a foreign firm.

If the local firm is able to match the foreign entity's bid, the asset will be awarded to the Filipino firm.

A government source earlier revealed that PSALM could not take that provision out of the bidding terms as doing so could result in negative repercussions in the future.

Like the Manila Hotel, the government official said the Masinloc plant had to be classified as part of national patrimony to justify the provision.

"The Supreme Court has a habit of throwing monkey wrenches into things. The government just has to make sure that the results (of the bidding) are beyond any legal question," the source said.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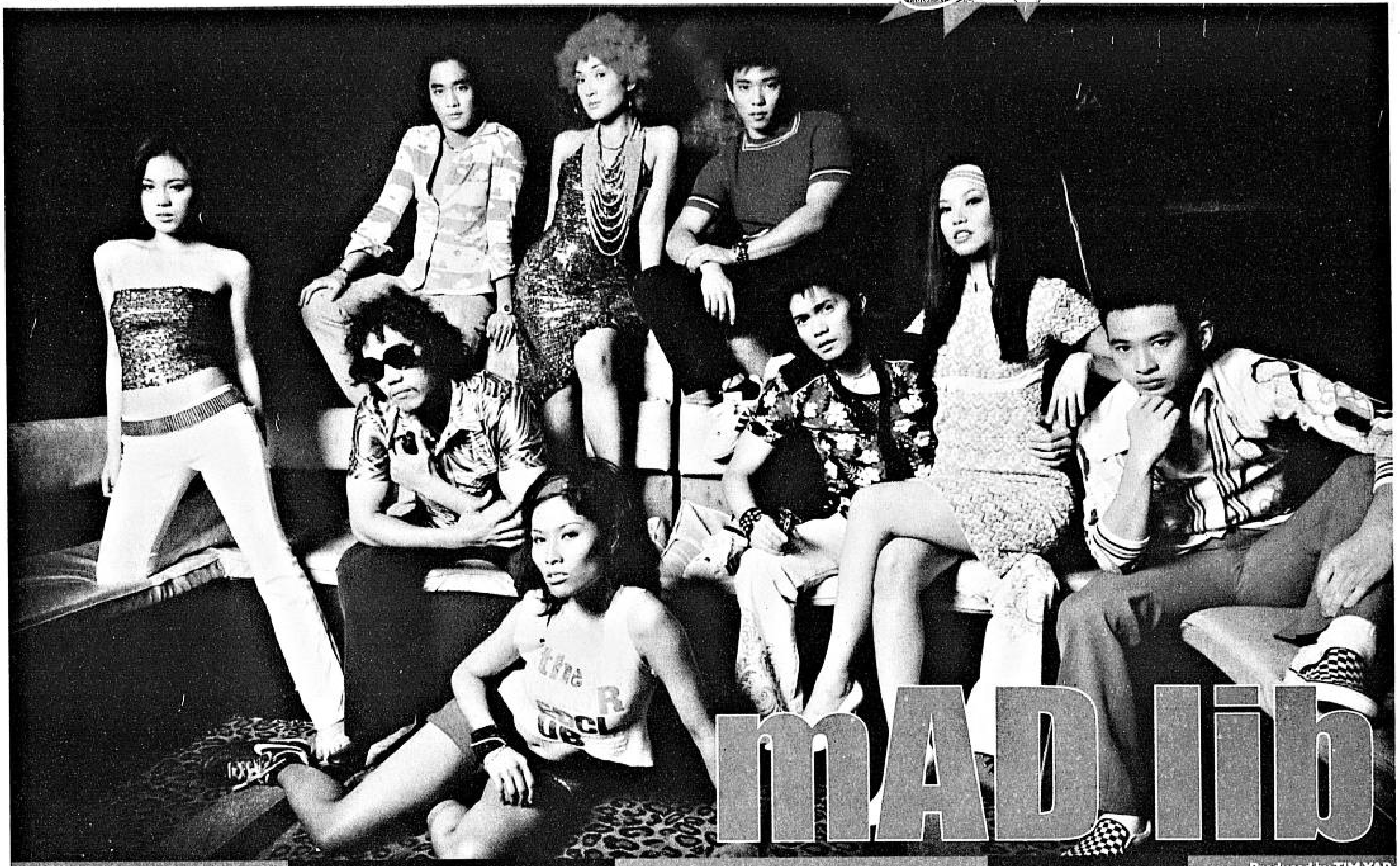

mAD lib

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Saddle up for Pony page D1

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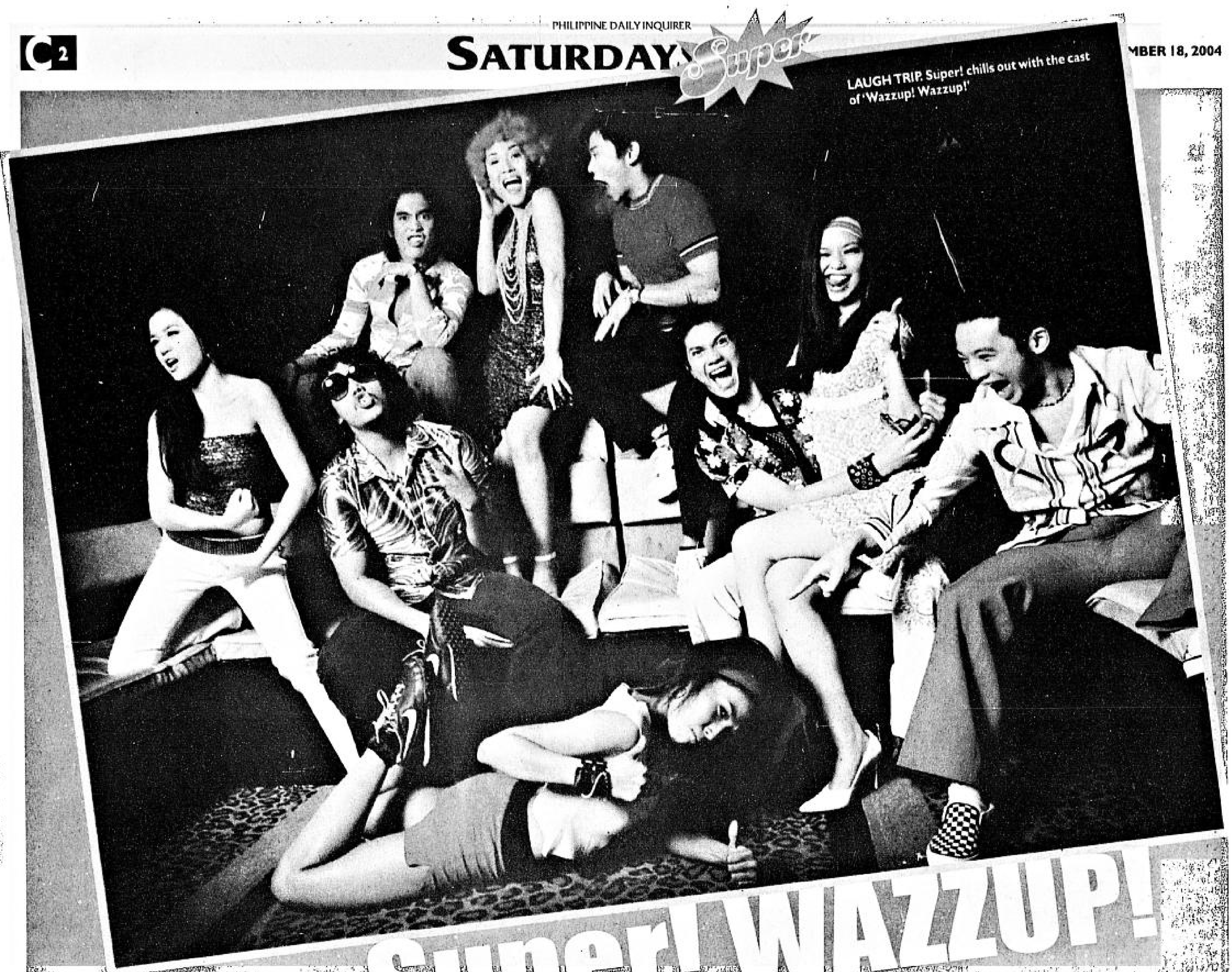

LAUGH TRIP. Super! chills out with the cast of 'Wazzup! Wazzup!'

Super! WAZZUP! TRIVIA

Super! compiled random thingamajigs about your favorite "Wazzup!" characters that go beyond the double-shoulder patting (the "Wazzup!" frat code). From the fear of *calamansi* to a love of Chuck Taylors, here is a listing of key *barkada* quirks that will surely make you scratch your head and say, "Wazzup! Wazzup!"

Tim Yap

STRIKE A POSE. [illegible]

Vhong Navarro

- Between takes, he loves to crack jokes using the props around him.
- His hair is actually wavy but it has been ironed out.
- A Chuck Taylor aficionado.
- Can never get past two minutes without giving/ending on a "group hug," as he calls it, on the set. (The "group" usually just means Bianca Valerio.)
- What you see is what you get. He is just as hilarious in person as he is on screen.

Toni Gonzaga

- Stint that made her mark: Sprite TVC with Piolo Pascual shouting, "I love you Piolo!!" Aubrey Miles was actually one of the girls vying [illegible] for the role here.
- Has *calamansi* phobia. Also fears anything associated with it, like lemon or lime. Their smell, taste and texture make her cringe.
- Just recently learned to [illegible]. Now she loves it, but without the *calamansi*, of course!
- Staple snack prior to live telecast in the dressing room while having hair and makeup done: Frito Lay's Sour Cream & Onion with Mocha Frappuccino (tall).
- When dining in restaurants, always envies the food of the person beside her and ends up eating off that person's plate [illegible].

Drew Arellano

- [illegible] entrepreneur! Part owner of a preschool, part owner of [illegible], and distributor of billiard tables.
- [illegible] best friends, he's [illegible] share a room.
- Loves collecting watches.
- Sports and gym buff.
- Has two tattoos: one on his right arm and another on his back.
- Currently MYX VJ with Iya Villania.
- Doesn't sleep Tuesday nights. From live telecast of "Wazzup!" he [illegible], then goes straight to "Unang Hirit."

SUPER! WAZZUP! family photo

Archie Alemania a.k.a. Reklamador

- Used to be a dancer with the group Big Men.
- Like Vhong, loves Chuck Taylor so much he owns a gold pair of Golden Chucks.
- Unlike his major character, he's a pretty [illegible] guy with an element of [illegible].

Mitch Hernandez a.k.a. E-Pal

- Has animal phobia. Afraid of all types of animals.
- Always has neatly pedicured toes with hot red polish.

Jaja Bolivar a.k.a. Kikiam

- Was discovered in "Love Aids," an annual show put together by members of UP Diliman's Samaskom.
- Apparently [illegible].

Ketchup Eusebio a.k.a. Banana Ketchup

- Real name is Michael Eusebio.
- Screen name is derived from a Del Monte Tomato Ketchup ad that he appeared in as a kid.
- Plays a gay character in ABS-CBN TV series [illegible].

Beadi de la Cruz a.k.a. Walace

- Member of UP Repertory.
- Speaks [illegible] "Wazzup!" [illegible].
- His hair is actually slightly wavy [illegible].

Bianca Valerio a.k.a. Reynang Rampadora

- Remembers almost all the tagalog words she knows from "Wazzup!"
- Claims to be a certified blonde but really is an Elle Woods at heart.
- Is actually [illegible] and used to be in a band.
- Was the model used for the Guinness Book of [illegible] Tallest Hairdo in the World 2004.

Bianca Gonzales a.k.a. Campus Correspondent

- Has an amazing collection of Chuck Taylors.
- [illegible]
- Member of ABS-CBN's [illegible].

The 'jologs' in me

By Bianca Valerio

Whoever said that a Brazilian wax has to be the most liberating experience has obviously never been a "Tad Jock!"

An avenue for the gift of gab, giving one the license be a professional goofball with the use of charming mockery and conjured humorous lingo, "Tad Jocking" has definitely got to be the most "In-Your-Face-Having-A-Blast" job there is.

The first-ever news gag show, Studio 23's "Wazzup! Wazzup!" is officially on its third season.

Currently the show's fashion and events correspondent, a.k.a. "Reynang Rampadora" for the "Anywear! Anywhere!" segment, I get to cover events that deal with my chosen profession but even better: I get to mock them!

After being overdosed with fashion philosophies and over-analyzing the essence of a tweed jacket for years, please, there's just really so much you can say about a darn jacket! My character, however trying to surpass Joan Rivers' fashion expertise just basically turns out to be Carrot Top shelving out oxymorons, all for the so-called love of fashion.

Wazzup, showbiz?

Although I'm loving my role now, it wasn't always this way…

However hard to believe, it's so ironic that my route to deeper self-discovery was directed towards the indisputably cynical world of show biz: an industry where everything is a frontage of fabricated characters to be consumed by TV viewers in constant need of eye candy.

I had made a solemn vow to myself from a young age that show biz would be my very last career option. Yet in a gallant effort to expand my horizons in the field of entertainment, I ate my words with a hosting stint that drained all my so-called pride.

Not-so-fair weathered

Fate sure had a way of bringing it on when I first landed the part of Weather Girl "Luzy" (for Luzon) on "Wazzup!" Along with two other characters, Vizy, played by Jaja Gonzales and Mindy, played by Carla Humphries, our characters reported weather that made absolutely no sense while dressed in disdainfully ill-fitting and, at times, provocative costumes to avoid looking mundane.

We portrayed every conceivable character there was in pop culture from Madonna in the '80s to a *manananggal*. Lest we forget the matching choreography that defied all mantras of self-dignity was the pièce de résistance of our segments.

I imagined it to be the job of my dreams. It sure was… of my nightmares! It was more of a punch in the face than the punch line I was counting on. Here I was at the prime of my modeling career donning every imaginable glamorous look there was on Vogue and hosting hip, social events one night…

And then, there I was with a gigantic floral head dress, squeezing my cheeks together depicting an overly pus-infested zit desperately trying to pop itself, shacked up in neon green spandex (the gravest sin the name of fashion), dancing and singing to the Viva Hot Babes' "Bulaklak" on primetime!

From fame to shame

My supposed 15 minutes of fame had blatantly turned out to be 30 Minutes of Shame seven days a week for three months.

I had two words to describe my career: Schizophrenic and Ironic.

I was consumed with so much self-doubt that quitting at that time was the best and only option. With the cast and crew unaware, I cried in the dressing room nearly every single day. Jaja and Carla unconditionally shared their heartfelt support and "I've been there when I started show biz" stories, which slowly but surely put me at ease.

How I saw it was that, playing Luzy's role was an indirect way of confirming, "Yes, I am a model and I am dumb—so dumb this is the only role I can play…"

All my friends in the modeling industry believed I was having the time of my life with my new job but only my family and manager, Keren Pascual, knew what was really going on in my head. However, three things made everything change. First, my dad said, "There are many things that are beyond your control but the one thing that you can control is your attitude."

My alter ego

Which led me to the second: Perception. I realized everything in life is a choice. If life decides to throw you a fastball, it's not about hitting home; it's about how you covered all the bases.

Walking away would've been the easiest, sure-fire, risk-free and cowardly way of handling the situation but in choosing to see it as a new cross I had to carry in order to grow, in a literal flash, my so-called daunting problems drifted right past me!

SUPER! MODEL Bianca Valerio as her true self.

PHOTO BY STEVE TIRONA

As the cast became closer to one another and I had been reassigned to be a field reporter, things started to look up. It was then I started to connect with another side of myself I never knew actually existed! It was the 'jologs' in me, a.k.a. my alter ego. It made me see and love myself in a whole new, enlightening way.

So much so, I remain the old me but you might say, repackaged and intensified. Just when I found the joy in being shallow, was also when I found myself. I had learned to let go and let God.

Lastly, as Keren is known for his sporadic wittiness, what he told me was the clincher to seal the deal: "Pretend *na lang* you're Ashton Kutcher of 'That 70's Show!' He's not really stupid in real life but look where he is now! He's so cute *pa, di ba*?!" And that my friends, was the impeccable cocktail, splashed with a dose of sarcasm and a slice of encouragement, that I needed!

Now let's see if I can nab a Demi of my own.

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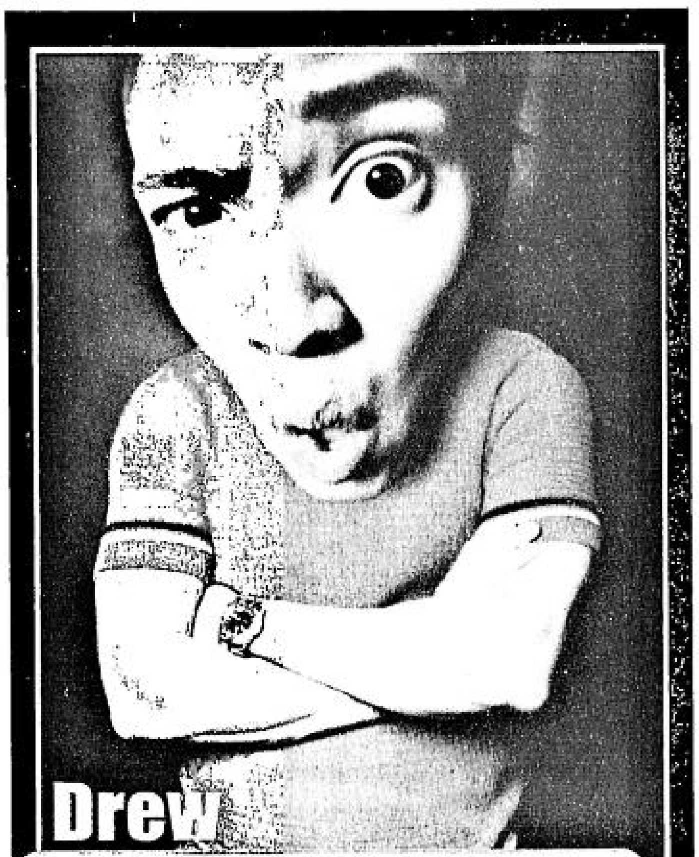
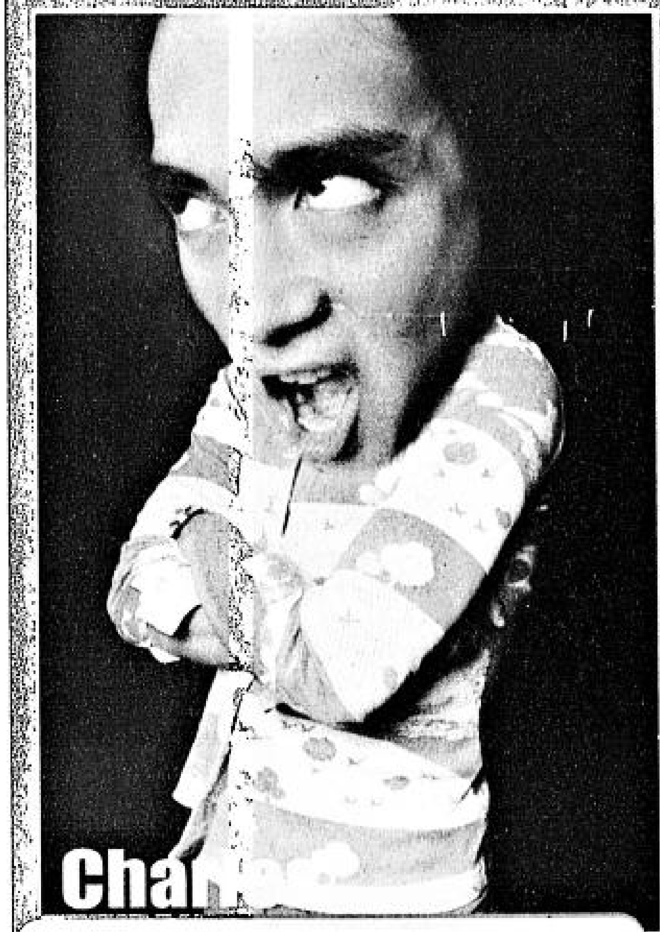


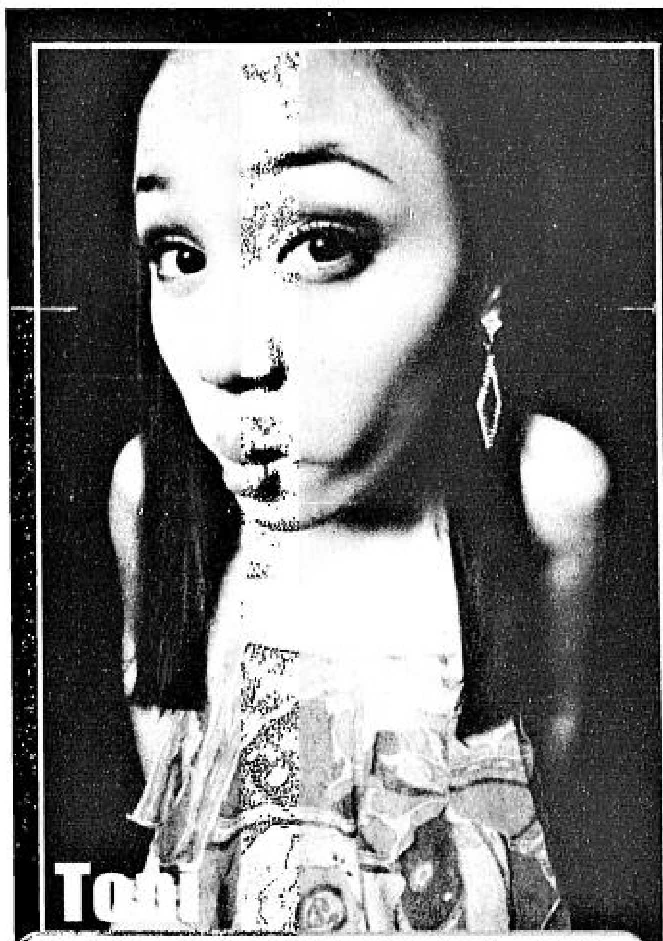
Drew

Wazzup! I'm... Drew Arellano, **Wazzup's resident...** *Sandigan ng Kagwapuhan.*
My special talents are... none, if ever there are any, they're still hidden.
When I'm alone, I love touching... my PDA and cellphone.
The cartoon character that I resemble the most is... Superman. Well, at least I try to.
When I grow up, I want to be... like my dad.
The craziest thing I've ever done for attention was... to pull down my pants and underwear at a convenience store.
I daydream about... my girlfriend.



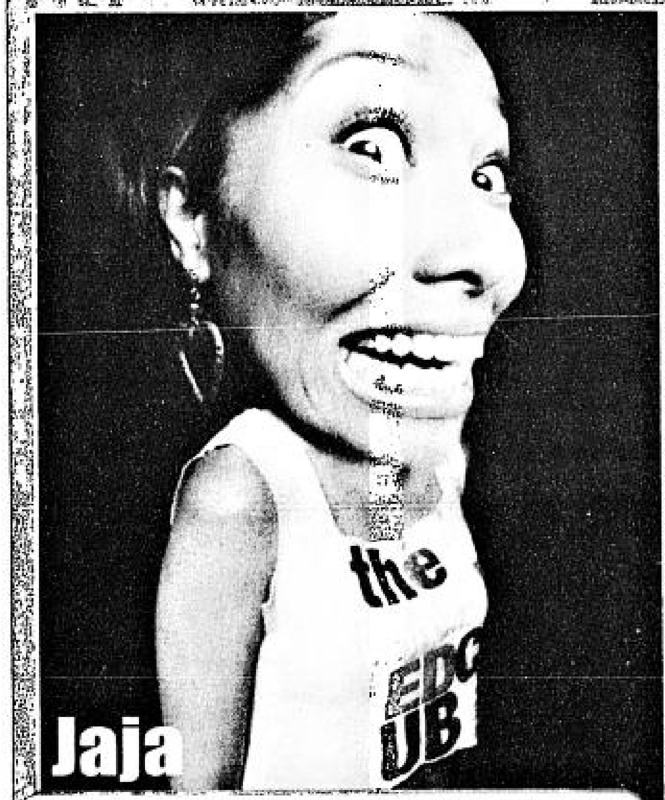
Char

Wazzup! I'm... Charles Lejano.
When I'm alone, I love touching... my eyebrows.
The cartoon character that I resemble the most is... Bert.
When I grow up, I want to be... as rich as humanly possible.
The craziest thing I've ever done for attention was... sing in a talent show in third grade.
I daydream about... going home to sleep and dreaming for real.



Toni

Wazzup! I'm... Toni Gonzaga , **Wazzup's resident...** news diva.
My special talents are... I can twist my tongue upside down.
When I'm alone, I love touching... my doggy.
The cartoon character that I resemble the most is... Sleeping Beauty.
When I grow up, I want to be... myself.
The craziest thing I've ever done for attention was... be myself.
I daydream about... my dreams.



Jaja

Wazzup! I'm... Jaja Bolivar a.k.a "Kikiam Defensor", **Wazzup's resident...** special delivery news reporter.
My special talents are... hosting, singing, acting, impersonating, *gumawa ng* notary public, *tumulay sa miswa, umiwas sa patak ng ulan.*
When I'm alone, I love touching... my curly hair.
The cartoon character that I resemble the most is... I'm a cross breed of Pocahontas and the senator. Hahaha tragic!
When I grow up, I want to be... respected.
The craziest thing I've ever done for attention was... to distort myself into what I am now... Kikiam.
I daydream about... nightmares.

What's up, Wazzu

Photos by Steve Tirona

Tim Yap

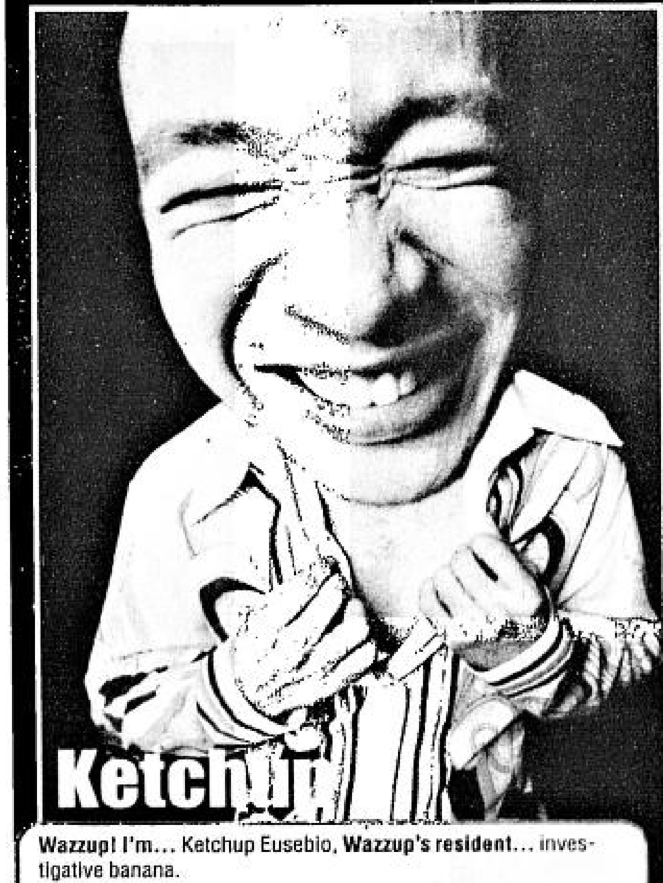
LIFTING a page off "Saturday Night Live" with its sassy skits, "Wazzup! Wazzup!" is the hip, post-millenial version of '80s comedy TV shows like "T.O.D.A.S." and "Sic O' Clock News."

Not that we are putting the show in a box—far from it. Portraying characters who jump out of the boob tube faster than you can say, "Reklamador" (one of its hit segments), the "Wazzup!" cast is a young, talented and visually striking (it is television, after all) bunch, each one out to make a stamp in today's funny business of show business.

Vhong Navarro has a couple of movies under his belt. He has played the title roles in "Mr. Suave" and "Gagamboys." Archie Alemanya is doing five shows simultaneously on ABS-CBN alongside "Wazzup!" Bianca Gonzales is co-hosting "Y Speak" with Ryan Agoncillo and Karen Davila.

Their backgrounds range from high fashion (Bianca Valerio is a top model) to college theater (Jaja Bolivar, who plays Kikiam—a Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago caricature—was discovered while doing the University of the Philippines' "Live Aids"). The other cast members were discovered via commercials—Toni Gonzaga from Sprite, Drew Arellano from Sunsilk and Charles Lejano from Rexona.

Some were plucked out of the station's own backyard. Mitch Hernandez (who plays a character inspired by our very own Sea Princess Tessa) double-times as segment producer, while Bianca Gonzales used to work as part of network bigwig Enrico Santos' creative staff.



Ketchup

Wazzup! I'm... Ketchup Eusebio, **Wazzup's resident...** investigative banana.
My special talents are... *mang-asar ng politiko.*
When I'm alone, I love touching... my banana mic. (microphone)
The cartoon character that I resemble the most is... Streetfrogs and Care Bears.
When I grow up, I want to be... a Gingeneer.
The craziest thing I've ever done for attention was... blurting out a joke in front of the VIP in a presscon.
I daydream about... Amanda Griffin and Pokwang.

Mitc

Wazzup! I'm... Mitch a.k.a "Lookah" Hernandez, **Wazzup's resident...** E-pal.
My special talents are... singing, dancing, doing sexy acts, morphing into anybody you want me to be.
When I'm alone, I love touching.. my butt hair.
The cartoon character that I resemble the most is... Rainbow Brite.
When I grow up, I want to be... Oprah Winfrey.
The craziest thing I've ever done for attention was... go out in a super wacky outfit complete with a headdress.
I daydream about... life.

Walla

Wazzup! I'm... Wallace, **Wazzup's resident...** Vakler.
My special talents are... I'm macho but I can speak gay lingo.
When I'm alone, I love touching... my goatee.
The cartoon character that I resemble the most is... Eddie of Tekken.
When I grow up, I want to be... an MVP in the NBA.
The craziest thing I've ever done for attention was... announce an upcoming fart.
I daydream about... having a yacht.

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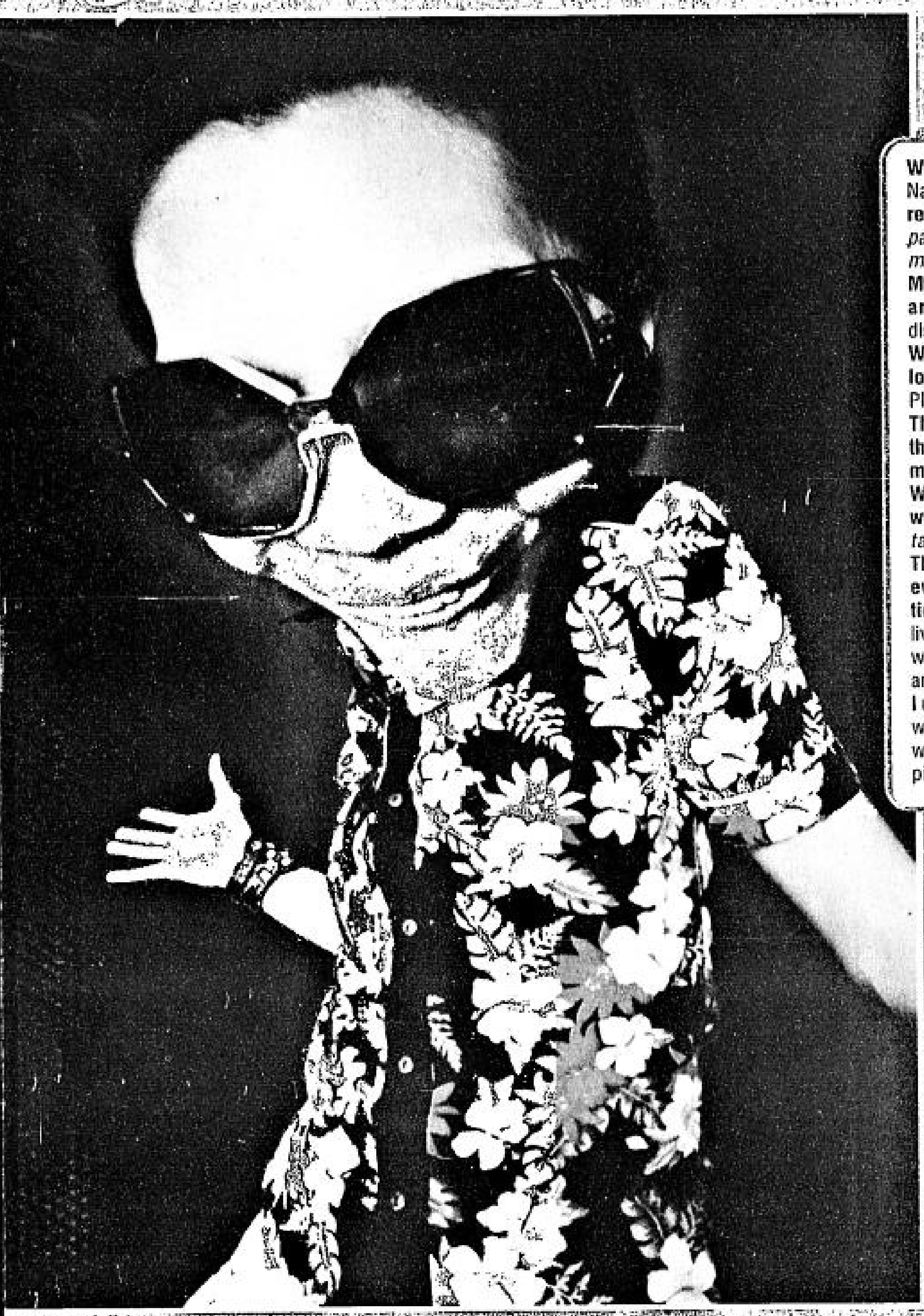

Vhong

Wazzup! I'm... Vhong Navarro, **Wazzup's resident...** *taga-paghatid ng balitang maangasan.*
My special talents are... I'm a master of disguises.
When I'm alone, I love touching... Playstation.
The cartoon character that I resemble the most is... The Mask.
When I grow up, I want to be... an *ermitanyo.*
The craziest thing I've ever done for attention was... swallowing live komodo dragon while wearing lingerie and Chuck Taylors.
I daydream about... world peace, stopping war and stopping piracy.

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1	EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
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5	THE TERMINAL
6	DODGEBALL
7	THE NOTEBOOK

events! events!

HALO-HALO! BACK TO BACK ENTERTAINMENT FINDS!

Sept 16	Sept 17	Sept 18	Sept 19
Thurs, 6:30pm Fireworks Display Central Plaza	Friday, 6:00pm Jimmy Bondoc and Barbie's Cradle Activity Center	Saturday, 4:30pm Regine Velasquez and Akafellas Activity Center	Sunday, 5:00pm Piolo Pascual and Jay-R Activity Center

Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc. Another retail innovation.

Meet the wild and wacky cast of local TV's news satire

e shoot with quirky eye for a straight guy ographer Steve Tirona inside Club V at the Long strip proved to be a disco trip filled sequined dresses, *ukay-ukay* finds and rted images (as you can see on this page).

a field where toilet humor and medi-y rule, "Wazzup! Wazzup!" strives to be rent and present a pun-ny, pop-political : on Pinoy gloss.

elcome the new batch of young Pinoys are redefining the way we laugh.

Bianca

azzup! I'm... Bianca Valerio, **Wazzup's resident...** fashionista.
special talents are... jazzing up acid-washed jeans.
hen I'm alone, I love touching... false lashes.
e cartoon character that I resemble the most is... Elle Woods.
hen I grow up, I want to be... like Elle Woods.
e craziest thing I've ever done for attention was... join Wazzup.
aydream about... Vhong in my jazzed up acid-washed jeans.

The King of fire grilled burgers
can now be enjoyed in six new restaurants.
BURGER KING
SM City San Fernando
SM City Marilao
Gateway Mall
Opening Soon
EDSA Central
SM City Dasmariñas
SM City Batangas
Opening Soon
BURGER KING
SM City MARILAO
SM City SAN FERNANDO
SM City DASMARIÑAS
SM City BATANGAS
EDSA CENTRAL
Gateway

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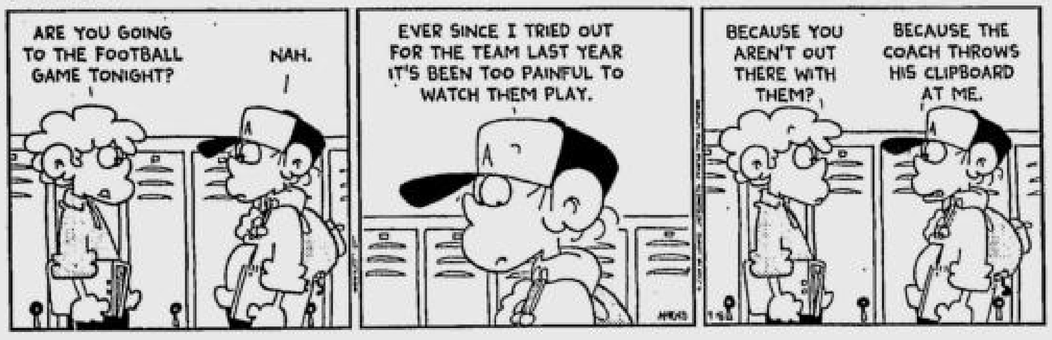
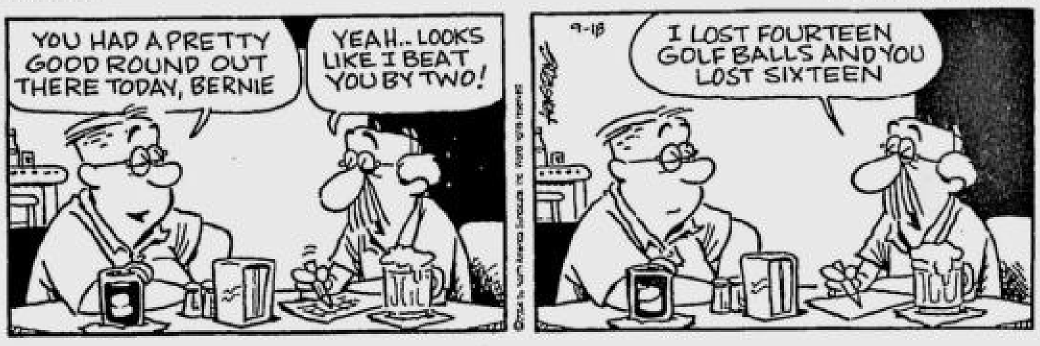
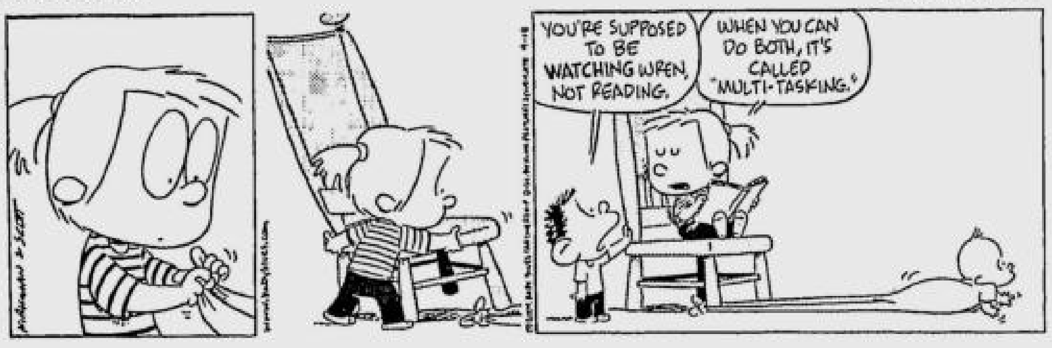
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


ARE YOU GOING TO THE FOOTBALL GAME TONIGHT?
NAH.
EVER SINCE I TRIED OUT FOR THE TEAM LAST YEAR IT'S BEEN TOO PAINFUL TO WATCH THEM PLAY.
BECAUSE YOU AREN'T OUT THERE WITH THEM?
BECAUSE THE COACH THROWS HIS CLIPBOARD AT ME.

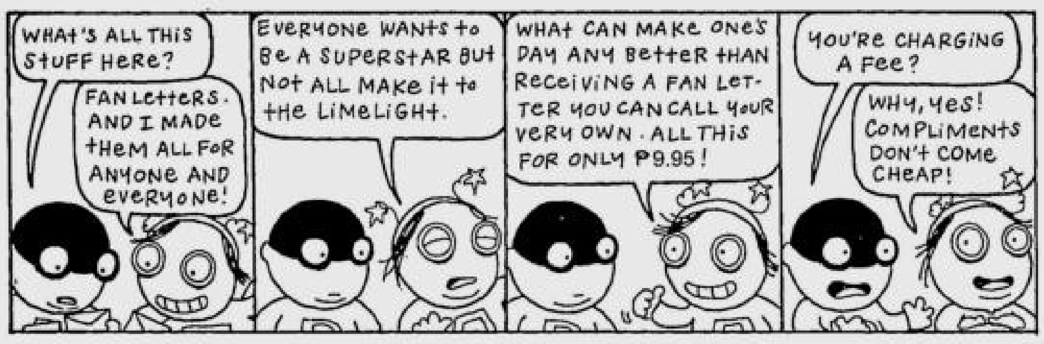
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


YOU HAD A PRETTY GOOD ROUND OUT THERE TODAY, BERNIE
YEAH.. LOOKS LIKE I BEAT YOU BY TWO!
9-18
I LOST FOURTEEN GOLF BALLS AND YOU LOST SIXTEEN

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE WATCHING WREN, NOT READING.
WHEN YOU CAN DO BOTH, IT'S CALLED "MULTI-TASKING."

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHAT'S ALL THIS STUFF HERE?
FAN LETTERS. AND I MADE THEM ALL FOR ANYONE AND EVERYONE!
EVERYONE WANTS TO BE A SUPERSTAR BUT NOT ALL MAKE IT TO THE LIMELIGHT.
WHAT CAN MAKE ONE'S DAY ANY BETTER THAN RECEIVING A FAN LETTER YOU CAN CALL YOUR VERY OWN. ALL THIS FOR ONLY ₱9.95!
YOU'RE CHARGING A FEE?
WHY, YES! COMPLIMENTS DON'T COME CHEAP!

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very private, even secretive. You're serious, thoughtful and an excellent problem-solver. You need harmony and beauty in your life; therefore, you make every effort to avoid stress. (You do not tolerate fools kindly.) The year ahead is pleasant, more social and favorable for marriages.
Birthdate of: Jada Pinkett-Smith, actress; James Gandolfini, actor; Greta Garbo, actress/film icon.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a very productive day at work. By all means, undertake jobs that require attention to detail. You have the steady patience and follow-through necessary to do the job right.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a good day for financial speculation. You won't go overboard. In fact, you're willing to make sacrifices today for tomorrow's profits.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Any kind of activity at home or within the family will be productive today. You can get a lot done! That's because reality and practicality are your prime concerns now.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You have a great amount of patience and diligence today. Because of this, turn your attention to jobs that require these qualities. Don't waste time on fun and frivolity.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're sensible with money today. Whatever you buy will be something that lasts a long time and no doubt has a practical use. Long-term investments also appeal to you now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're willing to get along with less today. Self-denial is not difficult. You have an easy sense of discipline in whatever you do.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're concerned with questions of security and old age today. You want to have a warm feeling in your tummy about your long-term future. Well, we all do. (Just hope for the best.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Join efforts with a friend or group to finish a project that requires hard labor or intense concentration. You're up for this task today. Fortunately, so are others.

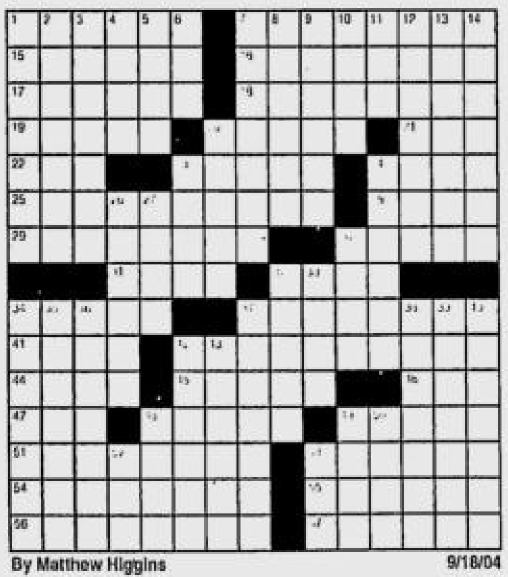
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You easily earn the respect of others today with your hardworking example. You're ready for action because you're prepared to walk your talk.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Long-range goals are your concern today. Whether it relates to other countries, publishing, education, training or the law, you're prepared to work for goals that will be fulfilled in the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is an excellent day to divide shared property or discuss how to use a specific amount of money or a particular set of resources. You're very sensible and practical right now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your relations with others are smooth today because you're prepared to put your own ego demands second. The outcome of something is what matters to you most now.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH
9/18/04

ACROSS
1 That thing alone
7 Calls up
15 Goat coat
16 York or Friday
17 Finicky and prudish
18 __ of habit
19 Irish patriot Robert
20 Staff of life
21 And not
22 "Losing My Religion" group
23 Wanted-poster word
24 Knock for a loop
25 Unable to benefit from instruction
28 Place for a chapeau
29 Belladonna derivative
30 Worries
31 Connecticut senator
32 Lacking fizz
34 True up
37 Exposure to public notice
41 Actor Auberjonois
42 Weakness of humanity
44 Gideon Fell's creator
45 Of times gone by
46 Do wrong
47 Fuss
48 Piece of trickery
49 Bow or Barton
51 Pertaining to a verbal exchange
53 Prayer
54 Impoverished
55 Celebrity
56 Evaluates
57 Itty-bitty

DOWN
1 Supreme powers
2 Extreme anguish
3 Gleam faintly
4 Mitigate
5 Inclination at sea
6 Young salmon
7 Attribute to a source
8 Breakfast staple
9 Make pleats
10 Mild expletive
11 Hardened
12 Leisurely walk
13 On the way
14 Novelist Laurence and others
20 Wishy-washy
23 Etcher's medium
24 Motionless
26 L.A. player
27 "Once __ a midnight dreary..."
30 Young seal
32 Destined
33 Sue of "Lolita"
34 Pastoral paradise
35 Intros
36 Encroachments
37 Takes away
38 Minnesota Fats portrayer
39 Farming implements
40 Oppressive domination
42 Counterfeits
43 Marilu on "Taxi"
48 States of bewilderment
49 Manitoba tribe
50 Phone connection
52 False story
53 Leftover morsel

Friday's Puzzle Solved

B	A	R	■	S	T	E	W	S	■	S	T	A	N	S
A	L	E	■	P	I	C	O	T	■	P	E	R	T	H
L	O	S	E	A	N	H	O	U	R	I	N	T	H	E
K	N	E	W	■	S	O	L	D	E	R	■	■	■	■
S	E	W	E	R	■	■	■	■	D	O	O	D	A	D
■	■	■	R	E	T	E	L	L	S	■	M	I	N	E
A	N	T	■	S	A	D	I	E	■	V	O	D	K	A
M	O	R	N	I	N	G	A	N	D	Y	O	U	L	L
B	R	A	I	N	■	E	N	N	U	I	■	P	E	T
E	S	P	N	■	C	R	A	Y	O	N	S	■	■	■
R	E	S	E	A	L	■	■	■	■	G	E	N	T	S
■	■	■	■	L	E	E	R	E	D	■	L	A	R	A
L	O	O	K	F	O	R	I	T	A	L	L	D	A	Y
O	N	A	I	R	■	A	C	U	T	E	■	I	S	S
G	O	R	M	E	■	S	H	I	E	D	■	R	H	O

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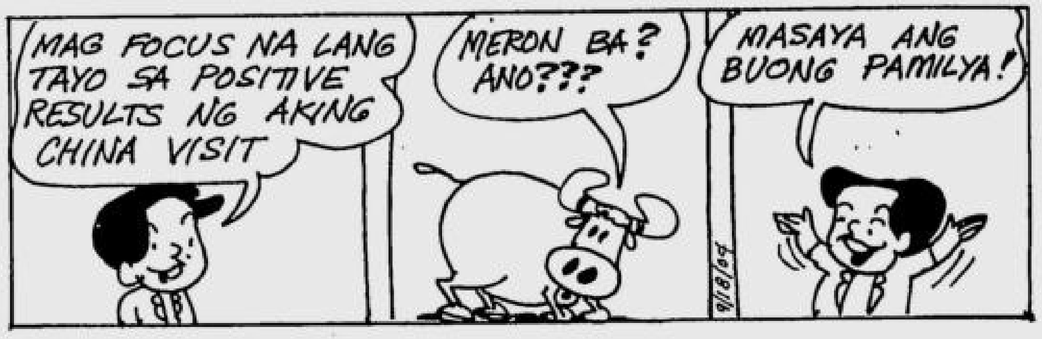
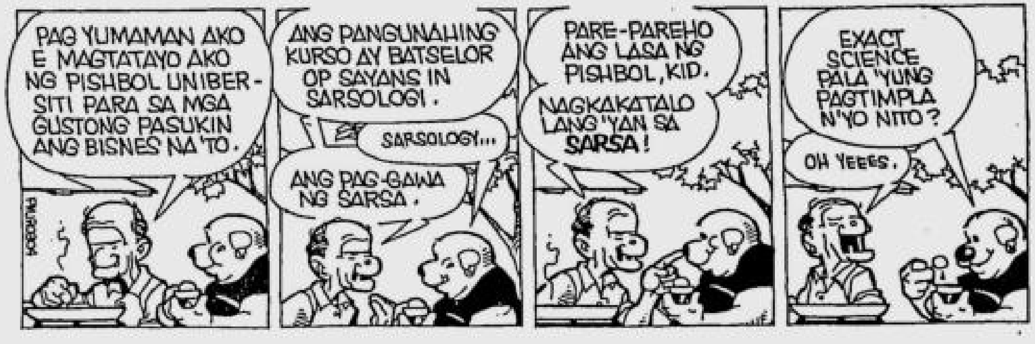
9/18/04

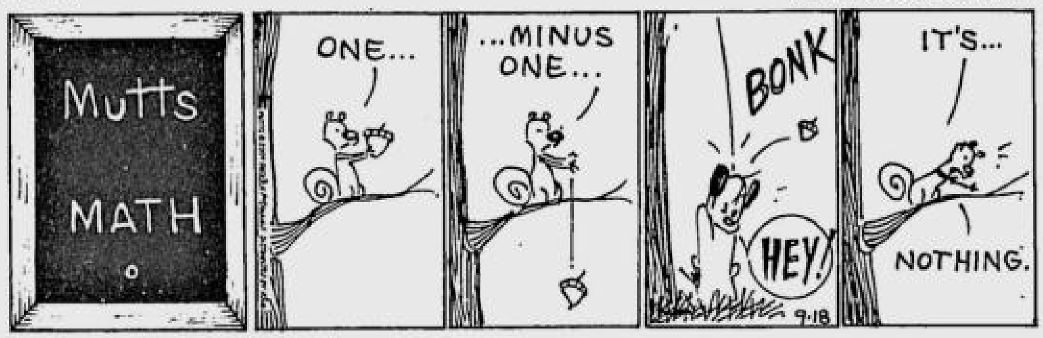
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


MAG FOCUS NA LANG TAYO SA POSITIVE RESULTS NG AKING CHINA VISIT
MERON BA? ANO???
9/18/04
MASAYA ANG BUONG PAMILYA!

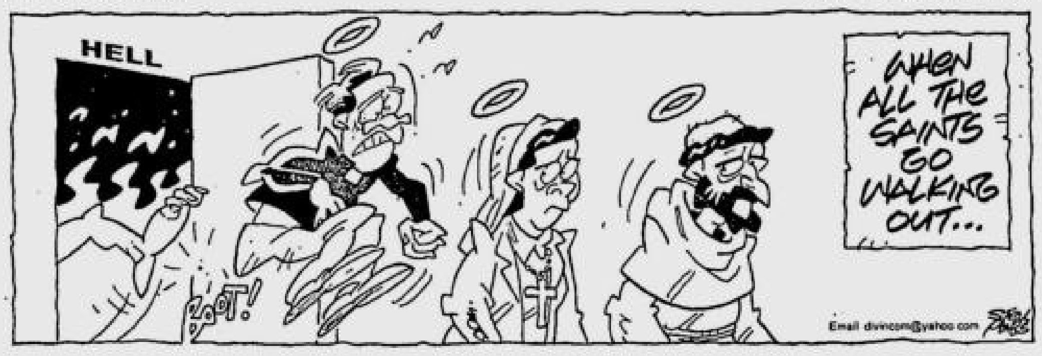
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAG YUMAMAN AKO E MAGTATAYO AKO NG PISHBOL UNIBERSITI PARA SA MGA GUSTONG PASUKIN ANG BISNES NA 'TO.
ANG PANGUNAHING KURSO AY BATSELOR OP SAYANS IN SARSOLOGI.
SARSOLOGY...
ANG PAG-GAWA NG SARSA.
PARE-PAREHO ANG LASA NG PISHBOL, KID.
NAGKAKATALO LANG 'YAN SA SARSA!
EXACT SCIENCE PALA 'YUNG PAGTIMPLA N'YO NITO?
OH YEEES.

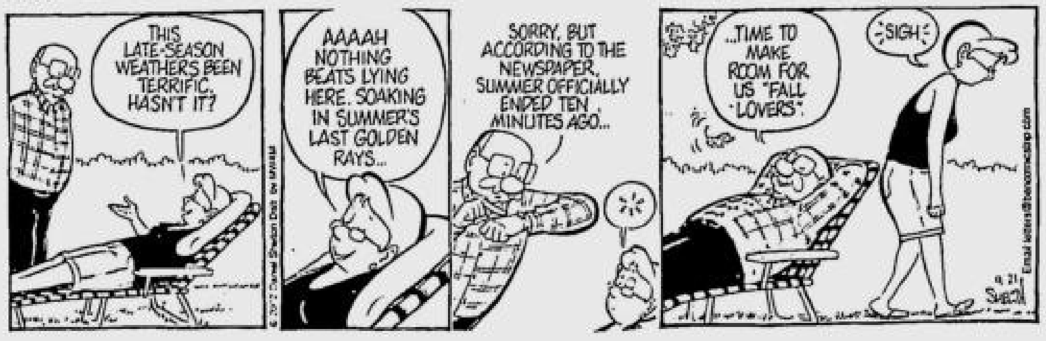
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Mutts MATH
ONE...
...MINUS ONE...
BONK
HEY!
9-18
IT'S...
NOTHING.

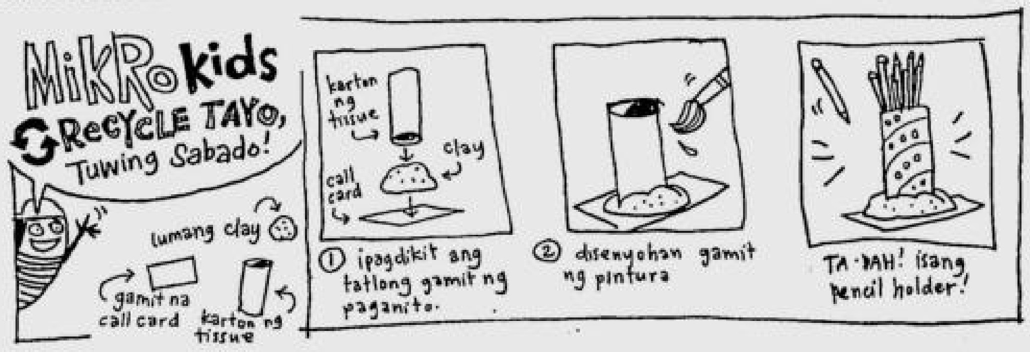
DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HELL
WHEN ALL THE SAINTS GO WALKING OUT...
Email divincom@yahoo.com

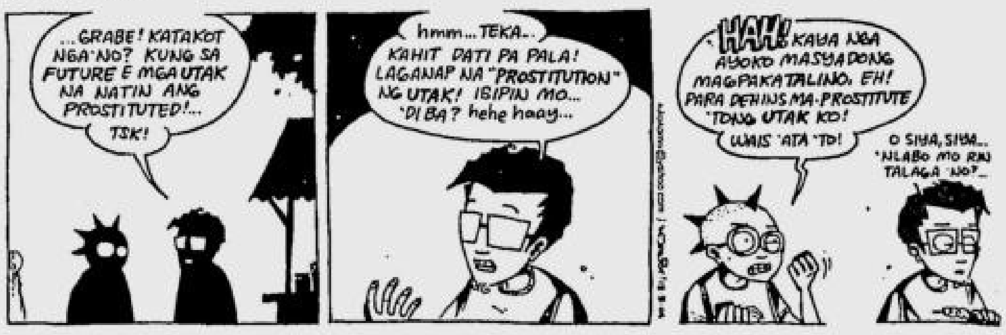
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


THIS LATE-SEASON WEATHER'S BEEN TERRIFIC, HASN'T IT?
AAAAH NOTHING BEATS LYING HERE. SOAKING IN SUMMER'S LAST GOLDEN RAYS...
SORRY, BUT ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER, SUMMER OFFICIALLY ENDED TEN MINUTES AGO...
...TIME TO MAKE ROOM FOR US "FALL LOVERS".
SIGH

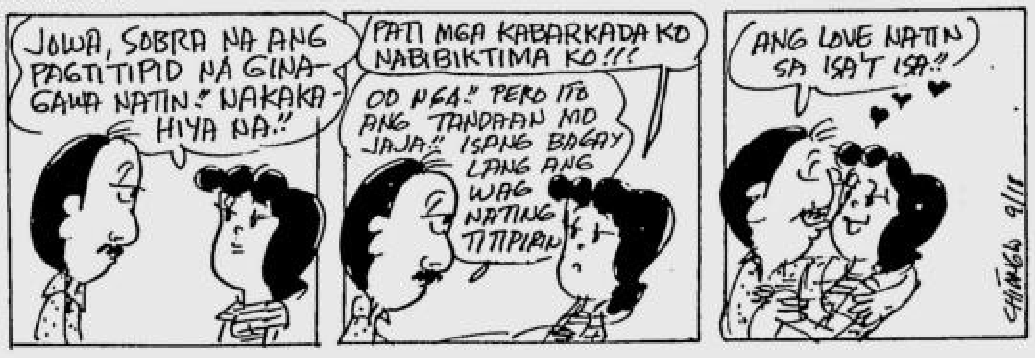
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo kids
RECYCLE TAYO, Tuwing Sabado!
lumang clay
gamit na call card
karton ng tissue
karton ng tissue
clay
call card
① ipagdikit ang tatlong gamit ng paganito.
② disenyohan gamit ng pintura
TA-DAH! isang pencil holder!

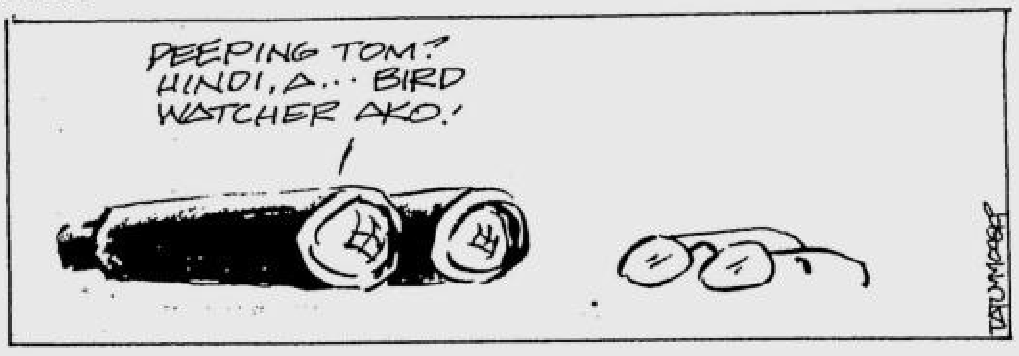
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


...GRABE! KATAKOT NGA 'NO? KUNG SA FUTURE E MGA UTAK NA NATIN ANG PROSTITUTED!... TSK!
hmm... TEKA.. KAHIT DATI PA PALA! LAGANAP NA "PROSTITUTION" NG UTAK! ISIPIN MO... 'DI BA? hehe haay...
HAH! KAYA NGA AYOKO MASYADONG MAGPAKATALINO, EH! PARA DEHINS MA-PROSTITUTE 'TONG UTAK KO!
WAIS 'ATA 'TO!
O SIYA, SIYA... 'NLABO MO RIN TALAGA 'NO?..

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JOWA, SOBRA NA ANG PAGTITIPID NA GINAGAWA NATIN! NAKAKAHIYA NA.!!
PATI MGA KABARKADA KO NABIBIKTIMA KO!!!
OO NGA.!! PERO ITO ANG TANDAAN MO JAJA.!! ISANG BAGAY LANG ANG WAG NATING TITIPIRIN
ANG LOVE NATIN SA ISA'T ISA.!!
9/11

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PEEPING TOM? HINDI, A... BIRD WATCHER AKO!

Go North, guys

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

LET'S face it. Boy bands are hard to distinguish from one another, due mostly to the fact that they all sing ultra-sappy lyrics, move with over-emotive hand gestures and sport cloying stares perpetually fixed at the camera.

These purveyors of pop pleasure (or pain) have unquestionably won over (or vexed) music fans from all over the planet in their many incarnations in recent years.

One of them, North, is a conundrum born in the land of vegemite, kangaroos and "Home and Away," declaring that they wish to break the mold, even if only slightly.

They were two hours late for the interview at Greenbelt 3's Red Box karaoke, but that's understandable. They had to go through Metro Manila's dreaded Friday afternoon traffic, after all. Still, the Aussie quartet comprised of Alf, Beau, Thanh and Scott, whose self-titled debut effort was recently released in Asia, enthusiastically answered queries about their four-day promotional tour in the Philippines.

Asian peg

Like other all-male vocal groups, North has one minority member as mnemonic device. Boyzone had the openly gay one; 98 Degrees has the un-studly one, and Blue has the black guy.

North has the Asian, Thanh, who's of Vietnamese descent. This, and their moderately rotated cover of Peter Cetera's "Glory of Love," are perhaps the only two things that people know about them so far. That's partly because the foursome has yet to release their 13-track album in their native Australia.

"Bands from Australia are mostly rock-focused because of the culture," says Alf, lyricist and producer. "We know Asia embraces pop music, so it just makes sense to release here first."

Group choreographer Beau, a former choreographer, adds, "Based on logistics alone, it makes perfect business sense. So we go home and we're just four boys back at home. It's cool, because we can still have peace and quiet."

So why, of all names, did they settle on the somewhat generic "North," after two years of deliberating?

"The name means 'going up,'" claims professional voice coach Thanh. "It's a very positive word. It's what we're all about. We're always improving ourselves." The group actually considered putting their initials together. But "S.T.A.B." or "B.A.T.S." didn't quite ring right.

They claim that their singles are fast chart-toppers in Thailand and Indonesia, and that they owe this to their distinct sound and rapport.

To give an idea of how North sounds, they performed harmonious a cappella snippets of "Glory of Love" and "Am I Your Only Man" between questions. Alf also took the opportunity to play the aboriginal wind instrument *didgeridoo*, which the group hopes to integrate into its next batch of compositions.

Creative freedom

Ex-personal trainer Scott appreciates the creative independence North is currently enjoying: "We manufactured ourselves. A lot of pop acts have a strong creative team behind them. We are that creative team [ourselves]. We write, produce, style, choreograph, design our CD cover—everything from A to Zed, really."

Beau notes that the boy band concept has evolved, and that North hopes changing tastes and attitudes will work in their favor.

"That's something we've always been wary of, the timing," he says. "One year, boy bands are cool, the next, they sort of fade out. We're not a traditional boy band; the big difference is, we do things ourselves. We hope everyone knows and appreciates that."

Will North be a springboard for eventual solo projects, then? Scott looks at the possibilities realistically. "I think it would be silly to say that we wouldn't want to continue individual careers in music, and this is probably a great launch pad. But one day, one moment, one year at a time. We'll see where it goes. We're four buddies that get along great."

SMELLS LIKE GAY PORN. Thanh, Alf , Scott and Beau of North

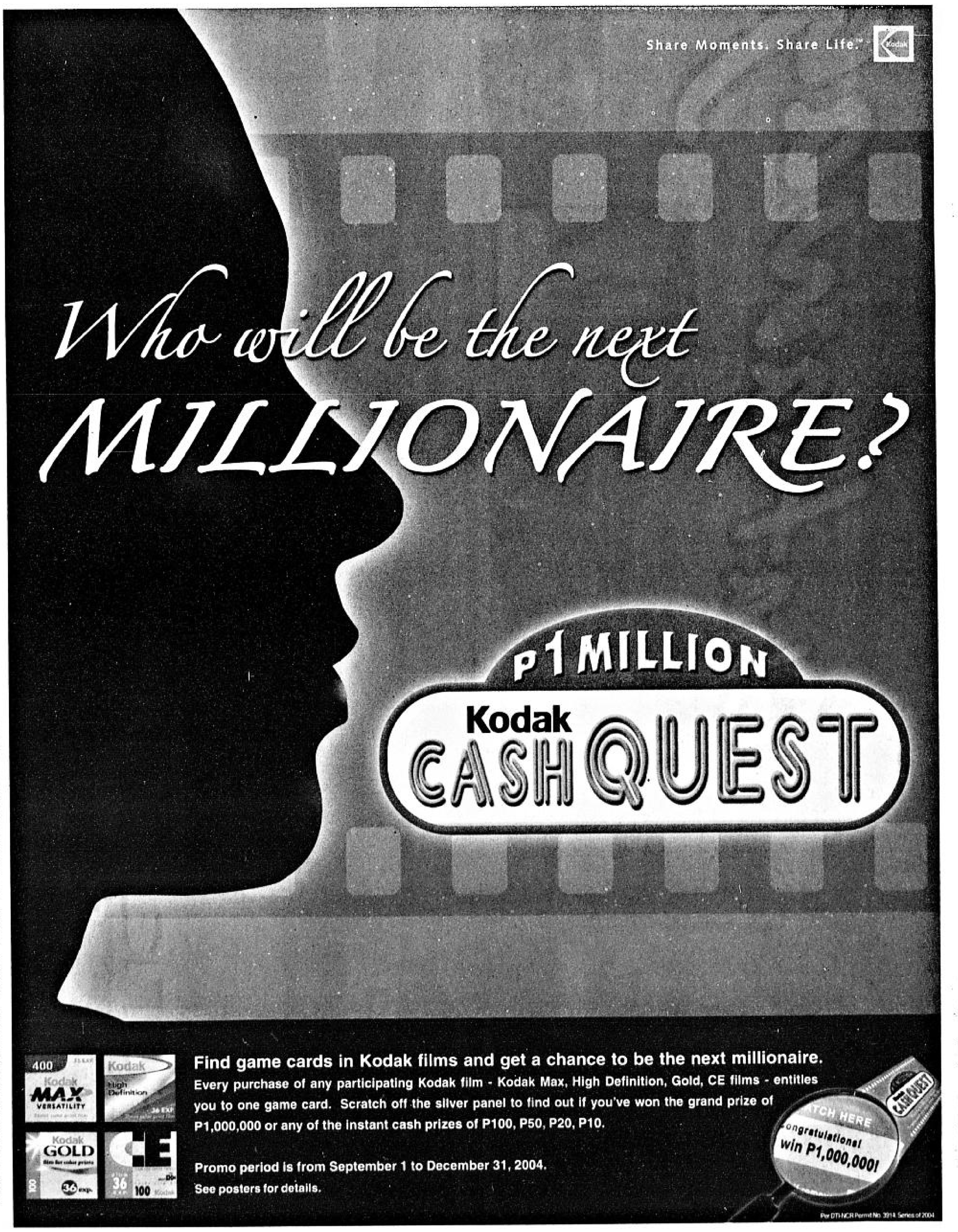
This boy band is a conundrum born in the land of vegemite, kangaroos and 'Home and Away'

Three of North's songs aren't mushy love hymns: "I Won't Hold Back" (about following one's dreams), "Welcome To" (about cutting loose on the dance floor), and "Funk Me" (a double-entendre dance track about, well, getting funky). But love will always be a recurring theme in this and future albums, they say.

"The best songs are love ballads," Alf claims. "It strikes emotions when you sing about relationships. Everyone's writing about it because everyone relates to it. Everyone's had a partner, or has been hurt. It's very difficult to write about something you haven't experienced. We're able to put words about personal experiences onto paper quickly, and it sounds right."

Years after this Asian debut, Alf hopes that North will be remembered worldwide as a strong vocal group that worked doubly hard to make itself distinct from its boy band brethren.

"Talent, writing music and being able to sing—it doesn't matter if you look good [or not]. Talent will always shine through in the end. Just give people good music they can get into," he says.



Find game cards in Kodak films and get a chance to be the next millionaire.
Every purchase of any participating Kodak film - Kodak Max, High Definition, Gold, CE films - entitles you to one game card. Scratch off the silver panel to find out if you've won the grand prize of P1,000,000 or any of the instant cash prizes of P100, P50, P20, P10.

Promo period is from September 1 to December 31, 2004.
See posters for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3914 Series of 2004

Chat away!
Hey Viv, it's been a while. What say we do some shopping :-)
Sorry girl, I got a photo shoot. My sked's full till sundown :-(
Then let's just party out tonight with Tim! ;-D
I'm game for that! ;-D
Oh great. I just remembered... I'm in Singapore :-O

SMART
i-chat
mobile phone ⟷ PC

The world's first Mobile Phone - PC instant messaging service now offers photo messaging via MMS!

And you thought it couldn't get any better! SMART i-CHAT gives Mobile Phone - PC wireless communication a 'feast-your-eyes' twist, with its new MMS service. In addition to chatting via text, you can now send and receive photos which you can save into your phone album, or install as wallpapers and screensavers. SMART i-CHAT. Just one of the many SMART innovations that make your mobile lifestyle even more amazing. Another breakthrough from the leader in wireless, the leader in innovation.

USING SMART I-CHAT IS A BREEZE! JUST POWER UP YOUR MOBILE PHONE OR PC, AND YOU'RE SET TO CHAT AWAY:

FROM YOUR PHONE:

1) To register, text REG <LAST NAME>, <FIRST NAME> to 277 (Ex: REG Tan, Vivien).
2) To get your password, text PASSWORD to 277.
3) To add a friend, text ADD <CELLPHONE NUMBER> to 277 (Ex. ADD 09191234567).
4) To send via MMS, create an MMS and send to 277<SMART I-CHAT ID Number>
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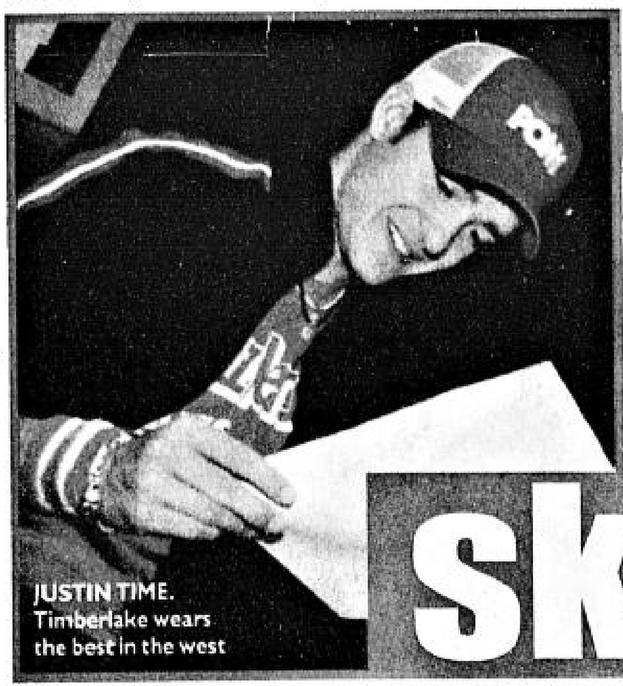
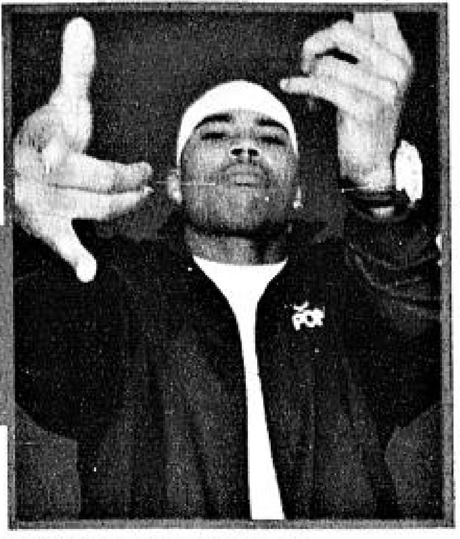


JUSTIN TIME. Timberlake wears the best in the west

New skids on the block



RIDE WIT ME. Nelly ponies up

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Tinodo ang DXM* na pumipigil ng ubo.

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Ubos ang ubo at anumang kasama nito!
DEXTROMETHORPHAN HBr
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Reformulated
If symptoms persist, consult your doctor
*DXM is Dextromethorphan

By Gino de la Paz

WITH his trademark guttural rasp, trip-hop god Tricky said so long to the last millenium with the lyrics "Brand new, you're retro." Apparently, the same line could also describe a once-dormant sneaker brand that is poised for a major comeback.

The American entry to the sports lifestyle market, Pony traces its pedigree back to 1972, a year when founder Roberto Muller dared go up against the German giants of the sneaker world, Adidas and Puma. During the late '70s, Pony two-stepped into the realm of A-list sporting competitions, becoming the preferred hoof covers of big dog athletes in the Montreal Olympics, the Super Bowl, and the NBA. By the time the hipper pockets of society had gone to bed with thick gold chains and Run DMC, circa 1984, Pony's sports cred had gone through the roof. Having muscled its way through as the kicks to be reckoned with in boxing, football, baseball, and tennis, Pony then gained the respect of inner city ballers. Sadly, the brand's dizzying success hit a speedbump and, soon after, sailed into the Bermuda Triangle of fashion, never to be seen again. Up until late 2001, that is, when Fred Durst began turning up at backstage parties wearing skids by the previously defunct shoe company.

Among urban fashion staples, it's sneakers—more than jeans or t-shirts—that have a far-reaching effect on the pop culture psyche. Before long, Pony was back on the United States radar, uniting footwear-challenged citizens and long-time fans. Launched in the Philippines last March 2004, Pony is a new-generation alternative to mainstream favorites like Puma Clydes, Nike Dunks, Adidas Superstars, and Vans slip-ons. Not merely banking on nostalgic groundswell, Pony is strong out of the gate with its three lines: Archive, old-school styles from the '70s

NEW/D3

SHOPWISE
Familya Fashionista 2
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Daddy Groovy
Sassy SIS
Mama Bongga
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This September, Shopwise dares you & your family to strut, sashay, and show off your sassiest best at our annual Familya Fashionista Showdown! Witness all the glamour, as moms, dads, and kids alike vie for coveted titles in 5 categories: DADDY Groovy, MAMA Bongga, BRO-dacious, Sassy SIS, and Cool KIDDO. Winners in each category will walk away with P50,000.00 in cash plus a glitzy 1-year modelling contract with Shopwise. While home partners saunter off with P10,000 each!

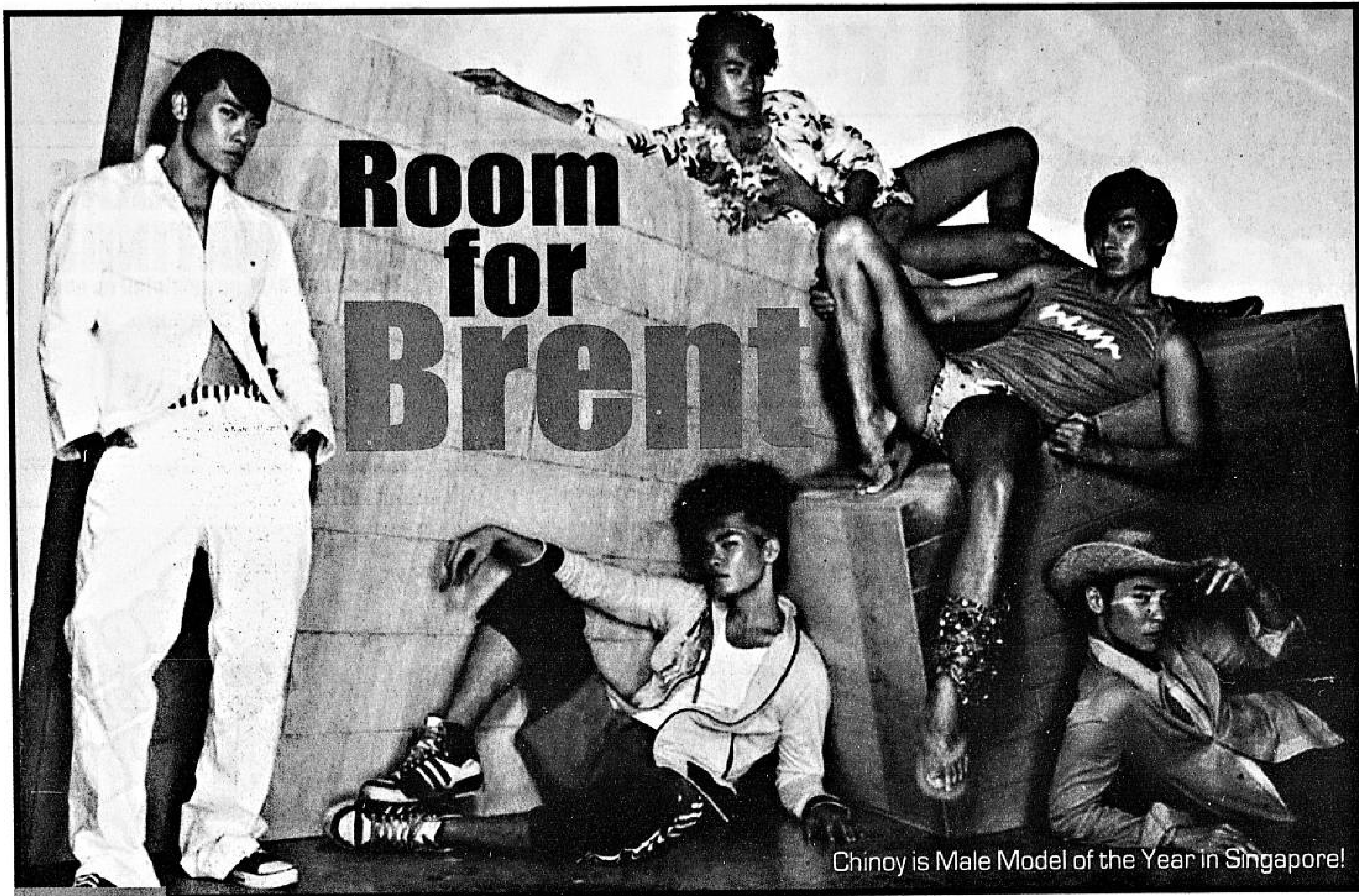
So if you think you've got The Look, make the P500 minimum purchase requirement from the Fashion Department, express yourself and register at any Shopwise branch between September [illegible] to 19.

Strike A Pose!
There's Nothing To It - at Shopwise.

SHOPWISE
Promo Period: September 1 to October 31
*See In-Store Posters & Flyers for Details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1800, Series of 2004

Room for Brent

Chinoy is Male Model of the Year in Singapore!



MALE CHAMELEON. The many looks of Brent Chua

By Tim Yap

TWO words went through Brent Chua's head during pre-show at the Singapore Fashion Awards: "No chance."

He eventually snagged the "Male Model of the Year" award.

Home court advantage was for Elvin, a Singaporean working with Elite, and scene favorite was Colleen Wee, international male mannequin who has romped the runways of Milan and Paris and graced major style spreads worldwide.

Faced with such stiff competition, Chinese-Filipino Brent Cu Chua was shocked when his name was called out as the winner!

He hadn't prepared an acceptance speech, so all he could say was, "Thank you very much!"

A lean six-foot-one, Brent has a compelling look that varies accordingly, from schoolboy to preppy, to bad boy rocker, to matinee idol, to very edgy hip hop, and beyond.

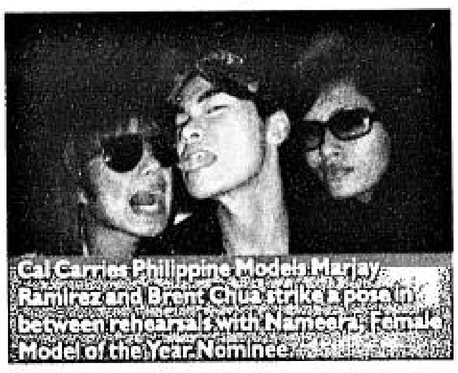
His impressive portfolio is an A to Z of the fashion design world, a record of countless shows and campaigns launched by top design houses like Gucci, Jean Paul Gaultier, Louis Vuitton, Jil Sander, Ermenegildo Zegna, Paul Smith, Lanvin, Armani, Yohji Yamamoto, Cartier and Baume and Mercier.

He has done television commercials for Channel News Asia, HSBC, DBS Bank, Coke, and AIA Insurance, and has also been featured in various local and international publications, including GQ, C'est Moi, Men's Uno, New Icon, FHM, Elle Homme, Her World, Citta Bella, Prestige, Manual and V.

A fixture in the Asian modelling scene, Brent shuttles from Singapore (where he is represented by Diva) and Malaysia, Taiwan and his home country, the Philippines (with Cal Carries).

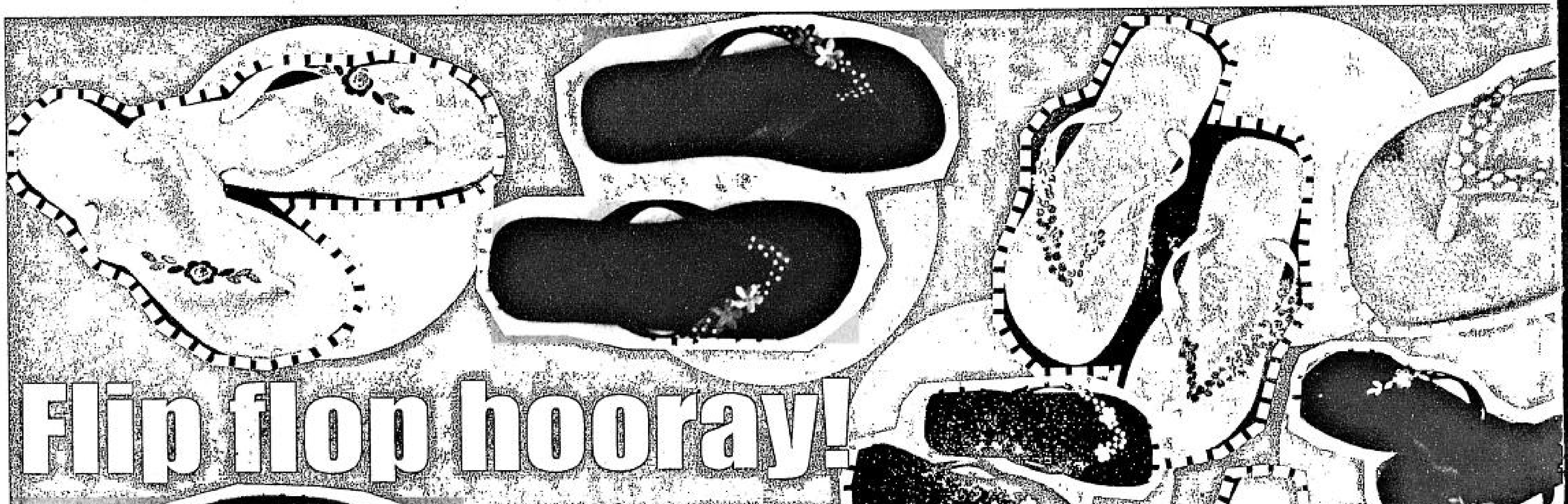
"After being nominated for [the SFA] for two consecutive years, and winning it now, I feel I have finally made my mark."

MALE Model of the Year @ SFA 2004 Filipino Brent Chua, **FRESH Stylist of the Year** Luke Elijiah, **Female Model of the Year @ SFA 2004** Rache G

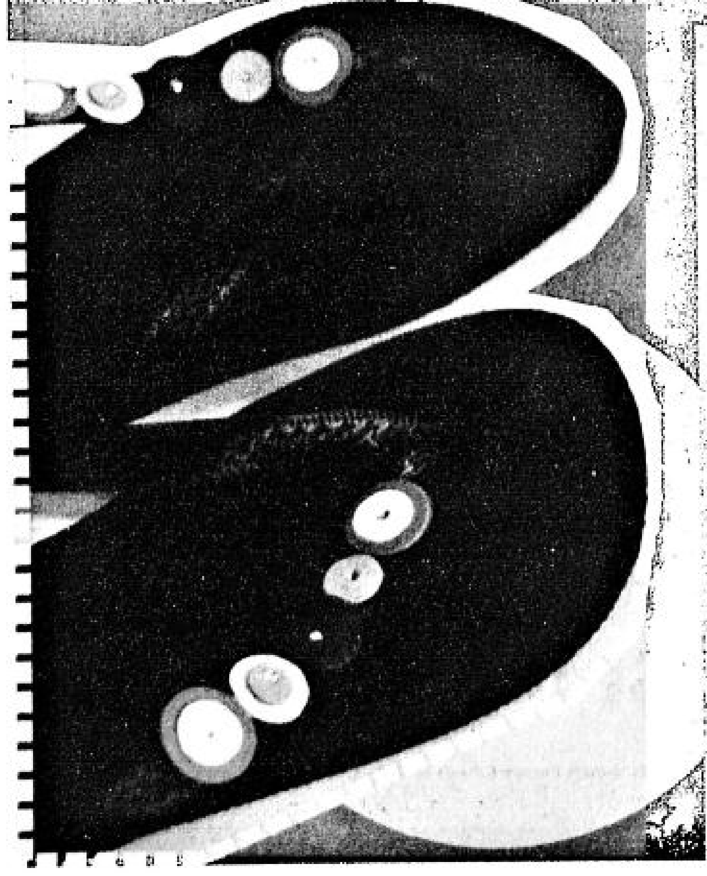


Cal Carries Philippine Models Marjay Ramirez and Brent Chua strike a pose in between rehearsals with Nameera, Female Model of the Year Nominee.

THE HAND made specially commissioned "trophy" with Swarovski crystals of the SFA 2004 winners



Flip flop hooray!



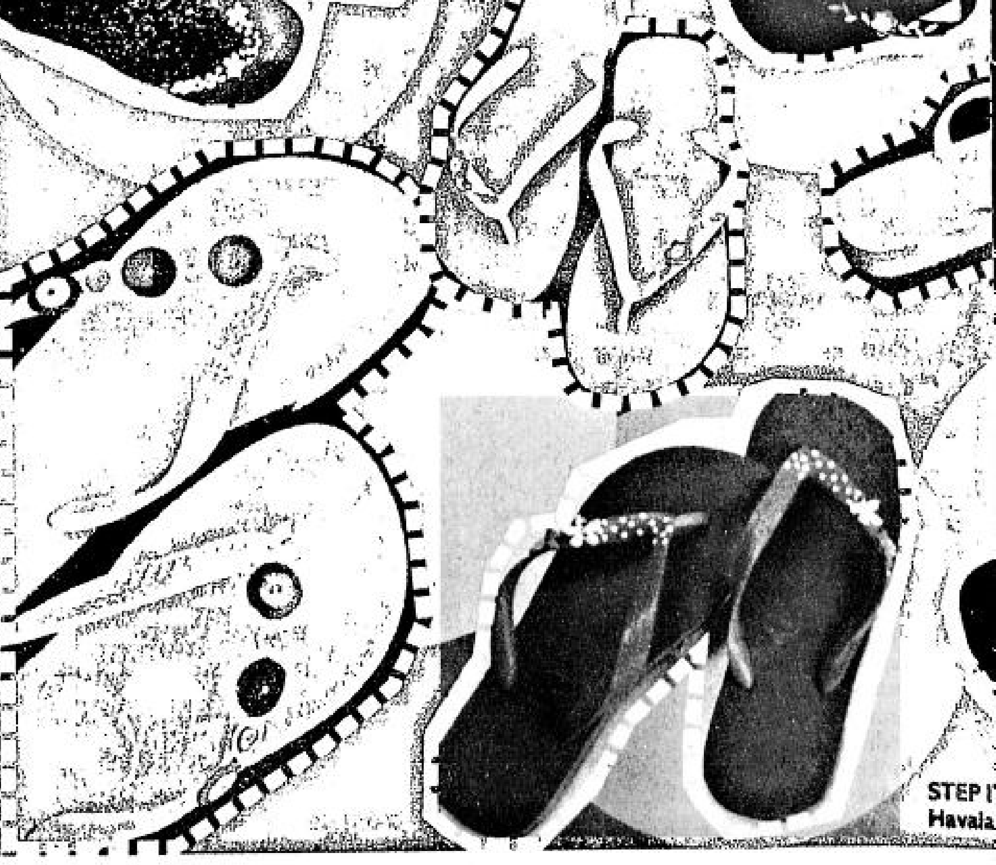
By Tals Diaz

LIKE playing footsie?

Then step into the latest embellished Havaianas flipflops. That's right, *embellished*—just love that word! You can embellish a simple story, a home, a rumor, and it suddenly transforms into something extraordinary. Now, you can embellish your feet with the most striking, comfortable flipflops to reach our shores! It's like giving your slippers the ultimate makeover, and then some! Decorated with flowers, ethnic beads, colorful buttons and clay trinkets, they're irresistably sweet feet treats. (Our past predictions here at Super! were right—flipflops really *are* the new stilettos!).

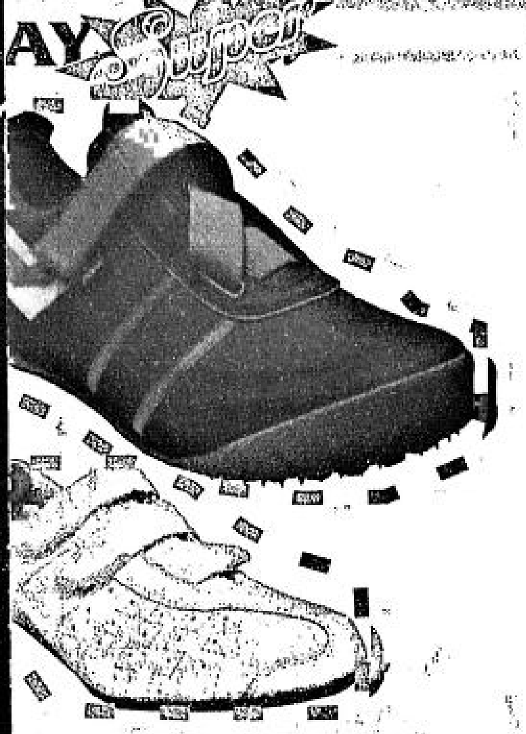
Originating from the same country that shows the world how to party with Carnaval and *caipirinhas*, these Brazilian beauties have been seen on some celebrity feet, and was even included in the coveted goody bags at the Oscars.

So samba away in the city with these pretty new thongs—grab a pair (or five) of this exclusive collection from Aura Athletica, located at the Power Plant in Rockwell.



STEP I
Havaia

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



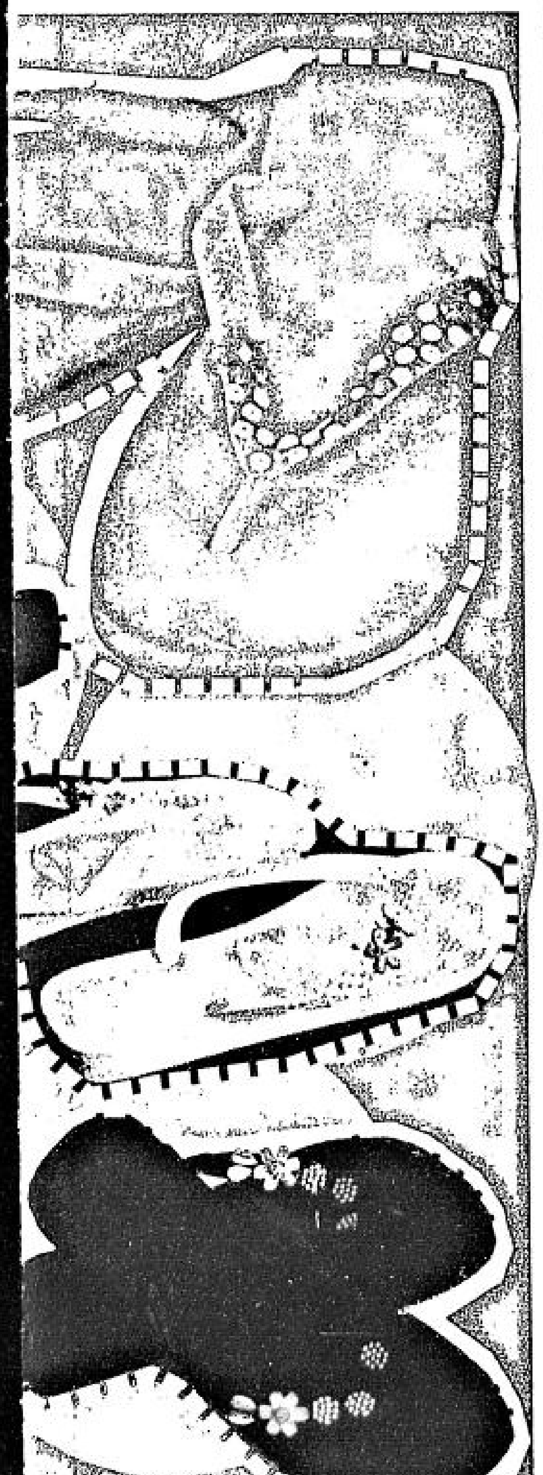
Thou shall not covet thy neighbor's shoes

was either Luther Vandross or the Dalai Lama o said that the best things in life are free. So now, e's your chance to prove just that and grab your n pair of Pony sneakers! But since it would be easy for us to holler "come and get it!" we're na let you sweat a little to bag the swag.

To enter:

Design your won Pony Limited Edition sneaker ng whatever medium you can imagine. Express ir rebellious spirit, uniqueness and creativity. can be one of the four lucky bastards to cart ay a pair.

Go nuts with the Photoshop and send it as a JPEG chment to super@inquirer.com.ph (Subject: y Promo). Don't forget your name, address, tact numbers, and shoe size (US or UK). Zodiac n or favorite Amazing Race team optional. The sing date for this competition in on Sept. 30, 4. As they say in Ponyland, "Let's get it on!"



UP! The embellished as collection

New skids on the block

From page D1

and '80s; Style, sport-influenced city shoes; and Move, technical performance footwear.

Outlaw aesthetic

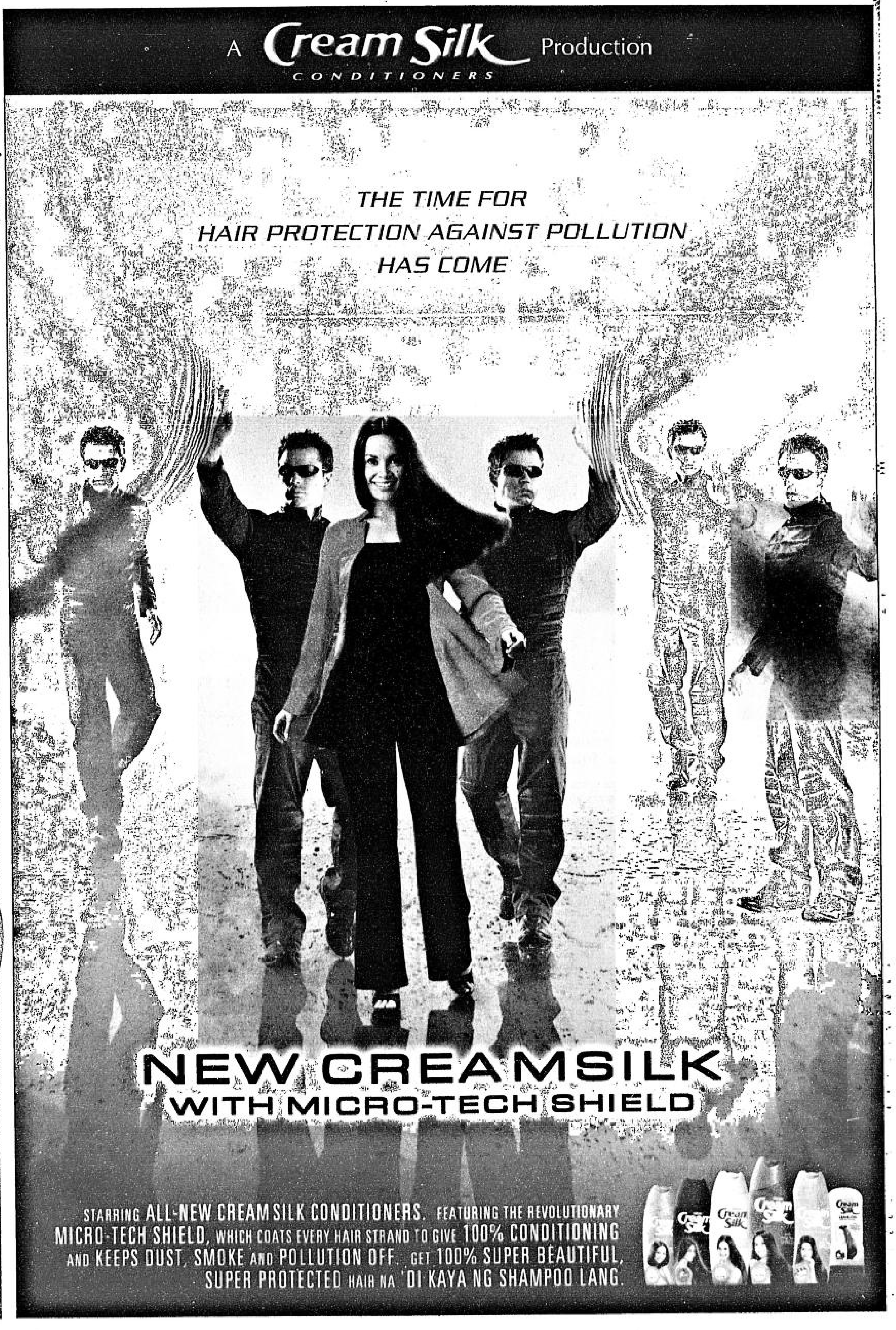
As if pouring buckets of chum to a group of young, hipster sharks, Pony has pulled in the likes of Nelly, Eve, Lil Jon, and alternative hip-hop pioneers Jurassic 5, all of whom are subculture spectacles in themselves. Even Paris Hilton and Nicole Ritchie own a few, and Justin Timberlake laced up his Turf 79 Lows in the video for "Cry Me A River." As a sneaker pimp myself, I, too, am the proud owner of Ponys, three pairs and counting, in fact.

FO shizzle!

Say "Americana" and Gap comes to mind. Pony is changing all that by presenting an all-American athletic spirit with its middle finger up in the air. A likely subversion of the badge found on military uniforms, Pony's trademark chevron logo represents this, the brand's fundamental outlaw aesthetic. With a brand regeneration on the horizon, Pony is back and ready to raise hell. And why not? It's been a long time coming.

Saddle up! Pony is available at: Toby's (Glorietta 2, SM North Edsa Annex, and soon to open in SM Megamall); Olympic World (Alabang Town Center); Olympic Village (SM North Edsa); and Royal Sporting House (Robinson's Ermita and Glorietta).

RUBBER SOULS. Clockwise from top left: Blink-182, Paris Hilton, Eve, and Nicole Ritchie



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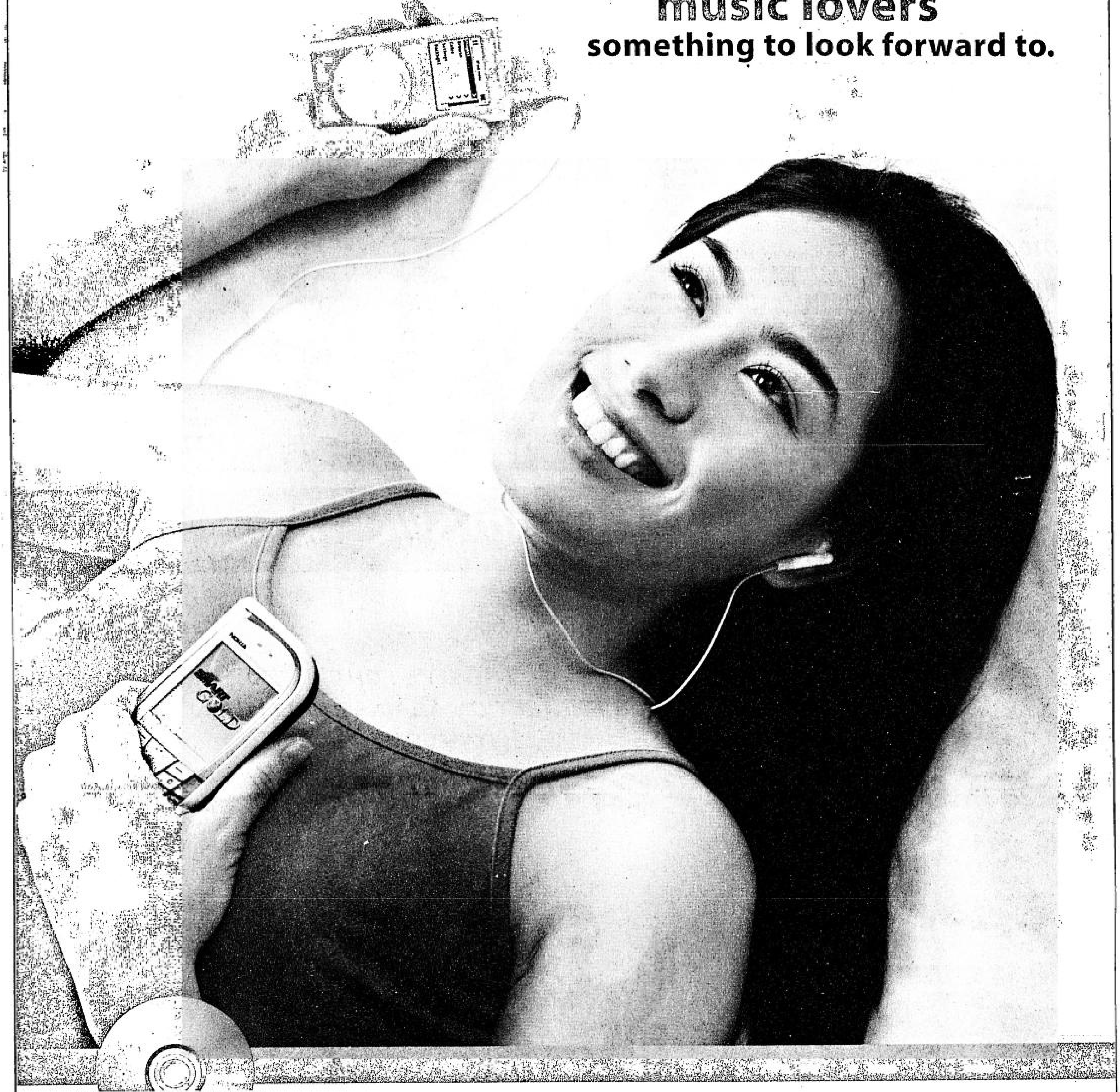

Gold Music Selection

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Download tones and images for a chance to win an Apple iPod Mini or 1 of 30 Sony Ericsson handsets.

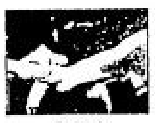
Access exclusive contents from SMART Gold Music Selection to earn points.
The more points you earn, the greater your chances of winning.

TONES

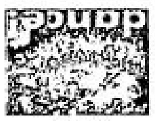
KEYWORD	TITLE	ARTIST
GMT1	Breathe	Telepopmusik
GMT2	Slow	Kylie Minogue
GMT3	Woman	Maroon 5
GMT4	Let's Get It Started	Black Eyed Peas
GMT5	Just the Way You Are	Milky
GMT6	I Love the Nightlife	Alicia Bridges
GMT7	Wake Me Up (Before You Go Go)	Wham!
GMT8	Don't Give Up	Chicane
GMT9	Just a Little While	Janet Jackson
GMT10	Walking on Sunshine	Katrina and the Waves
GMT11	Head Over Heels	The Go Go's
GMT12	Hey Mama	Black Eyed Peas
GMT13	Be With You	Atomic Kitten
GMT14	Naughty Girl	Beyonce
GMT15	I'm Coming Out	Amerie
GMT16	Accidentally in Love	Counting Crows
GMT17	Jump (For Your Love)	Girls Aloud
GMT18	Breathless	The Corrs
GMT19	Swing Swing	All American Rejects
GMT20	Follow You Down	Gin Blossom

Text *TONE* or *POLY <keyword>* to *209*.

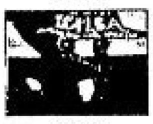
MMS WALLPAPERS

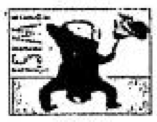

GMW1

GMW2


GMW3

GMW4


GMW5


GMW6

Text *MMS <keyword>* to *209.*

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A weekly MMS CD review	GOLD CD
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See flyers for details. Promo is until Oct. 17, 2004. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1217, Series of 2004.

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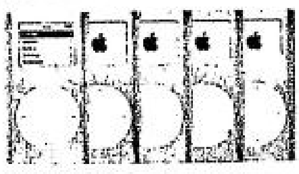
- All approved new subscriptions starting at Plan 500 get a chance to win.



- Approved new subscribers who avail of Plans 500 or 800 receive a World Music Room CD – FREE.

For current SMART Gold subscribers: Get a ₱1,000 discount when you purchase an Apple iPod or Apple iPod Mini at designated Apple Centers. Simply present the discount voucher that comes with your billing statement.

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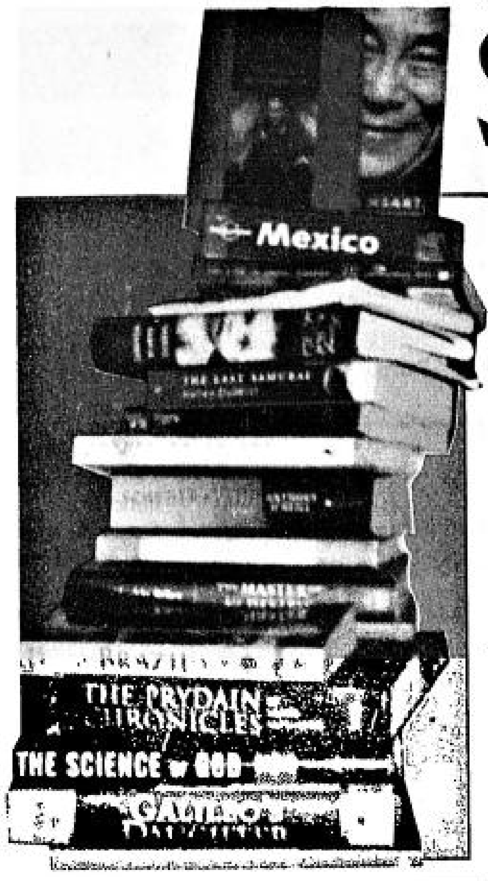
For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111; *888 using your SMART cellfone, the SMART Corporate Hotline at #888; send a text message to 888 (Standard rate in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation applies), e-mail us at smartgold@smart.com.ph, visit our website at www.smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

SATURDAY Super



A Little Geek Drama

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

THERE is a wonderful little holiday celebrated every month. It's akin to having Christmas twice a month for the working force, and it's called Pay Day. Say those two magic words and it's enough to elicit relieved sighs and beaming smiles for anyone plagued by monthly credit card bills, overdue rent, hunger pangs, and the consuming desire to de-stress via marathon shopping. It has become a regular tradition among my more corporate peers to map out their end-of-the-month splurging strategies to reward them for their assiduous work-weeks at the "salt mines." New clothes, shoes, costly dinners at restaurants, CDs or coveted electronic playthings are usually on the list. Conglomerate department

A LITTLE/E3

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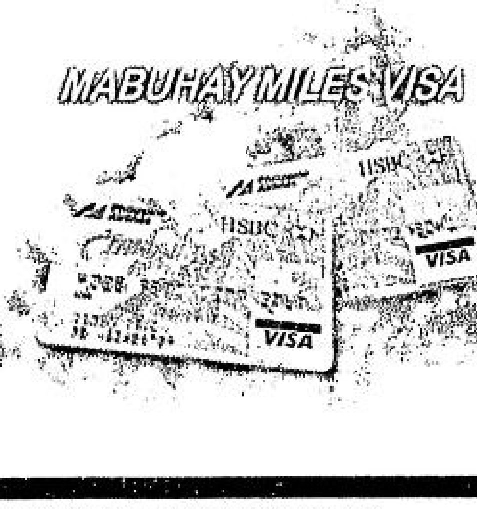

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I SHOULD be so lucky... MTV VJ Cindy Kurleto at St. James Palace in London, with no less than Prince Charles

Cindy Kurleto's date with Prince Charles

By Tim Yap

SO IS Cindy Kurleto giving Camilla Parker-Bowles a run for the monarchy?

Well, she came close. At a fund raising for the Prince's Trust Foundation, our very own Cindy was among the 30 celebrities from around the world that was invited to the very exclusive affair held at St. James Palace.

Princes Trust is a fund-raising organization which promotes young artists from the United Kingdom in difficult situations. They give concerts for industry insiders and sponsors as audience.

"I got invited because I'm friends with their biggest sponsor plus I'm friends with some artists abroad," Cindy told Super! "They paid for everything—first class all the way," Cindy tells us about her recent London trip.

"It was very exciting and beautiful *talaga ang* Europe—*kaya lang*, the British have no sense for style—at least not for that event." Cindy confesses about her observations with regards to people who attended the chi chi event.

UK Idol Jasmelia Din winner was there, too, as well as lots of European actors and musicians. The guests were all abuzz as to who Cindy was. They thought she was an Asian princess with her understated gown by Rajo Laurel.

Cindy was the only one who was seated beside Prince Charles. Not even Jamelia Din or the other celebrities or royalty present was allowed to be near the crown prince of England.

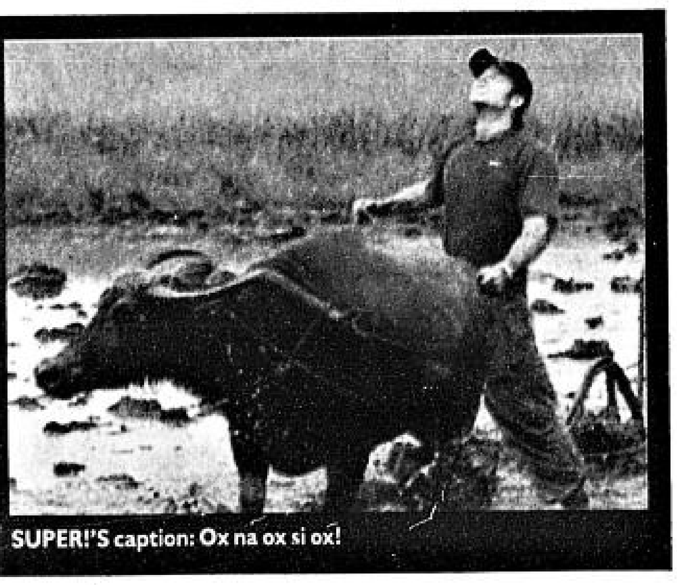
How's that for a page out of Cindy Kurleto's princess diaries?

Oh caption, my caption!

HOT on the heels of Colin's Manila meltdown, we here at Super! challenge all you Amazing Race fanatics to outwit, outlast, and outcaption us.

This week's photo is taken from the Manila leg of the Amazing Race 5, the infamous "My ox is broken!" episode. We all agree that the beloved water buffalo, *carabao* to you, deserves his own Spanish-language telenovela co-starring Colin. "*Ox y moron*," anyone?

Wisecrack away and send your entries to super@inquirer.com.ph (Subject: Caption contest) together with your contact info. The winning entry will be published next week and the smartass will walk away with a Super! ringer t-shirt. (Please, nothing x-rated. That's our job.)



SUPER!'S caption: Ox na ox si ox!

INSPIRATION SANDWICH

Fashion + art? X=actly!

FASHION and art join forces for a visual overload at a Super! shoot held at the Ateneo Art Gallery.

Colorful pieces from PAG's "The Biggest Little Room" exhibit served as the backdrop for fun and functional pieces from X=Act, a Thai fashion brand that has finally hit our market.

And why should the mix be a surprise? A and fashion are both games of expression, a outlet for creative flair.

What's your outlet?

X=Act is now available at Rustan's U Shang La and Makati, and at SM Megamall.

JON in gray short-sleeved polo, denim pants
Cat in sheer orange blouse and green shorts
Artwork: "Granadear Arabesque" by Jose Joya (oil on canvass)

MODELS: CAT JUAN AND JON MULLALY
PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAKE VER ZOSA
MAKEUP BY RB CHANCO OF MA
STYLING BY CANDICE LOPEZ AN KARRIE BITANGA
HAPPY DAVID OF ISHQ FOR THI ACCESSORIES
THANKS TO THE ATENEO ART GALLERY FOR THE VENUE. ON E HIBIT, PAG'S "THE BIGGEST LITTL ROOM"

JON in dark blue long-sleeved button-down shirt
Artwork: "My Sister at the Sewing Machine" by David Cortez Medalla (casein and sand on paper)

CAT in aqua sleeveless top and pink pants
Artwork: "New York City" by Ramon Estella

JON in burgundy and white short-sleeved polo and khakis
Artwork: "Church on Silver" by Jose Joya (oil on canvass)

CAT in lime green blouse, white printed mini
Artwork: "Vanguard" by Manuel Rodriguez, Sr. (oil o canvass)

BUY BUY, BABY!

ONE CAN assert especially here in the Philippines, that the countdown to Christmas becomes unmistakable at the advent of sudden burgeoning bazaars all around Manila. Excluding the perpetual and almost-a-cenotaph "tiangge" at Greenhills, the weekends leading to December are conspicuously booked with announcements for where you can find the familiar festive makeshift markets in various locations for the eager shopper-with-a-budget. You can find to all intents and purposes, anything here—from clothes to accessories to home décor and even funky shower curtains! (My personal favorite treasure find would be a pair of beautifully made chandelier earrings by Glisk that I got at our very own and incredibly successful Super! Bazaar from a few weeks past). Some people actually dedicate an entire day for combing stalls-proof that the thrill of haggling always gives a natural high and a boost of walking power.

Lemon-aide

Giselle Segovia

Bazaars have come to be some sort of a tradition now—it's always hard to resist stopping by when you pass a spot with the recognizable tents and colorful array of goods. Magnetic merchants are even harder to oppose, particularly when they are so amenable to lowering their prices. How can you say "nay" to a good buy?

Proof positive, the pre-celebration to the grand opening of the Ortigas Town Center (the new place to be along J. Vargas Avenue—check it out!) is a series of bazaars by Cut Unlimited for 4 straight weekends. From Friday to Sunday, guests will be treated to day-long parties—with DJs and hourly raffles, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Obviously, these people are serious about having a good time (For more shopping no doubt!).

Still though, we all know the Pinoy in you will note this event for a sure visit, It's almost the Yuletide season and it never hurts to buy ahead.

Saturday, September 18

For shopaholics, stop by the bazaar now on its second weekend, at the newly built Ortigas Town Center along Julia Vargas Avenue in Pasig. They have awesome stuff! For rockers, you wouldn't want to miss "Rockista: Ultimate Pinoy Rock Fusion," featuring popular bands as Sugarfree, Sandwich, The Mongols, Pepe Smith and Bamboo at the Philsports Arena. Tickets can be purchased at Ticketworld (891-5610). For partyphiles, don't forget to "Give Peace a Dance" at the Earthdance 2004 to be celebrated at Halo, 10 p.m. tonight. This party will fire through up on to the wee hours of the morning to simultaneously match the other revelries across the continents. If you come, bear in mind that you shall be partying all for the righteous cause of peace.

WHAT'S your last price?

Sunday, September 19

No doubt the previously eventful day would make you want to have a more subdued, relaxing night this Sunday. "Something for Everyone" might just be the thing for you—a one-night concert by the Clarion Chamber Ensemble. The first echo will be heard at 4 p.m. at the Phil-am Life Theater, UN Avenue, Manila. For details, do call up 844-4172.

Monday, September 20

Check out the photo exhibit by a group of Filipino photojournalists, presenting as highlight, the works of veteran lensmen Dick Baldorino and the late Johnny Acasio of the Manila Times. "Isang Letrato Ka Lang" is organized to restore the Oarhouse along Mabini Street in Malate, Manila. For inquiries, you can call 450-8301.

Tuesday, September 21

Pacita Abad's magnificent talent is once again captured in her latest collection of over 70 artworks in papermaking, printmaking and painting. It is heartening to see that even if her health is afflicted, she is nevertheless ceaseless in her passion's pursuit. View her exhibit at the CCP Main Gallery. For questions, please dial the CCP main office at 832-1125 to 39.

Wednesday, September 22

The Australian Film Festival is already midway! But you can still catch "Walking on Water," one of the chosen 10 Australian groundbreaking films, on this night, 7 p.m. at SM Megamall. Admission is free. You can call up 757-8173/757-8135/757-8132 for the comp screening schedules and ven More info can also be acquire www.australia.com.ph.

Thursday, September 23

The talented Liongoren fami up to something. The patriarch, ed visual artist Alfredo Liong and his children-famous photo pher Erik Liongoren, painter designer Hana Liongoren and tal artist Avid Liongoren arran concurrent, individual exhibits their works of late at the Pinto Gallery, Sierra Madre Street, Gr Heights, Antipolo City. For inter ed parties, you may ring up 6 1015 for details.

Friday, September 24

We're back to that bazaar ag For interested shoppers, stop anytime. For interested mercha you may call Cut Unlimited at 2955 to inquire about gettir booth. We'll keep you all postec for the next smashing Su Bazaar!

The word for the bored:

Macaulay Culkin says:

"We (Michael Jackson and I) all the time. I think we unders each other in a way that most ple can't understand either of u

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A Little Geek Drama

Life of Pi
EDITH HAMILTON MYTHOLOGY

From page E1

stores have wisely caught on to this cyclic behavioral pattern by launching such irresistible promos tagged as midnight madness sales—which; by the way, are portents of even more maddening traffic jams in a metropolis populated by mall-crazy denizens.

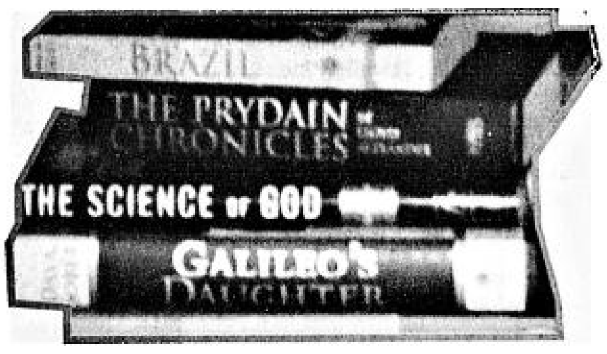
I'm not exempt from this post-pay day shopping habit. But instead of the usual female cravings for ten new pairs of shoes and whole day spa treatments, I blow profane amounts of money on my lifelong addiction. They are things that alter the mind, take me on trips to far flung regions, are highly addictive, cause me sleepless nights and at times render me crazy-happy for days on end. They're called books.

The very minute I find a few more digits added to my bank account, I hie off immediately, and in solitude, to my personal mecca: the bookstore. Bookshops in the city have become my temples; sacred sanctuaries wherein—forgive the hyperbole—I step in and actually feel this overwhelming wave of peace wash over me. To show my respect, I even shut my cell phone for hours just so I won't be bothered by incessant text messages. I'd become as untraceable as a ship in the Bermuda Triangle. In fact, while in transit on my travels abroad, I've almost missed flights because I'd lose all sense of time browsing through the small bookshops in the airport. And when some genius merged the concept of two of my most favorite things in life—books and coffee—in a nice little comfy corner of a shop, it just proved the existence of God.

Early Chapters

I happily blame my mother for getting me hooked on my lifelong addiction. Soon after my brother and I barely learned how to walk and talk, she would prepare flashcards of simple vocabulary words for me to learn how to pronounce correctly. As soon as I got the hang of reading simple words like "cat" and "hot" and "flower," she soon moved on to much more difficult words like "corruption" and "curfew." (We were, after all, still Martial Law toddlers back then). Instead of showering me with toys and Barbie dolls on my birthdays and Christmas celebrations, my father would give me selected books. In fact, I still have "The Giving Tree," the very first book he ever gave me, which I still read today! Children's books like "The Little Prince" soon evolved to Asterix collections, then Nancy Drew mysteries, to the Chronicles of Narnia. Even now that I'm in my twenties, my family's, well, peculiar reading exercises still haven't ceased. My mom still keeps a ten-inch thick dictionary by the dining table and asks me to search for new vocabulary words to learn in between *subos* of rice. I got so hooked on books that in high school, when reading fiction wasn't exactly a hobby that made you the most popular kid in the campus caste system, I was inevitably tagged as a nerd. Call it a Geek tragedy if you will.

TOLKIEN
TOLKIEN
TOLKIEN
CALEB CARR
CODRESCU
Mexico
Life of Pi
EDITH HAMILTON MYTHOLOGY
UMBERTO ECO
THE LAST SAMURAI
GOOD OMENS
MARGARET ATWOOD
The Robber Bride
ENDER'S GAME
A FAREWELL TO ARMS
BRAZIL
THINNER
FILIBUSTERISMO
THE PRYDAIN CHRONICLES
THE SCIENCE OF GOD
GALILEO'S DAUGHTER



PAGE against the machine. Hopelessly hooked on books!

The Next Chapters

True, it was a bit of a stigma to actually like reading back in high school. But things did get a lot better in college, when I met way cooler kids (ok, I admit, cute Atenean classmates) who continued where my parents left off by introducing me to J.R.R. Tolkien, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Nikos Kazantzakis and Herman Hesse. I met my best friend because of a whole afternoon's discussion on J.D. Salinger's "Catcher in the Rye." The best part about it all was that these breaks between classes during the sweltering afternoons were never pseudo-intellectual, pedantic pissing contests. They were simply good, insightful moments in the shade of mango trees in the quadrangle, with young people swapping well-loved stories. Recollected lines, from favorite books, became pieces that formed a kaleidoscope of experiences from friends who found solace and wisdom in written words, and inevitably gave away clues about their personal life's beliefs and philosophies. Ironically, it was on those mundane moments outside the classroom, many times cutting English class, that actually made me appreciate the poetry of life and living.

Fast forward to the present chapter, a.k.a. living *la vida nakakaloka* in my late twenties, in a post-long term relationship era where I'm still ambling along on this so-called universe called serial dating. I have come to terms with the one flaw that comes from being a bookworm all my life. I know all too well that you can't judge a book by its cover, but dammit, I end up judging boys by the books they read! Once, I almost gave this guy (even with cover-boy looks) the big brush off—that is until I saw his mini library for the first time in his apartment, filled with dog-eared and underlined tomes—and well, let's just say that I was unable to put him down.

Epilogue

An epilogue to this little Geek drama. A friend once commented, "These days, a lot of people are working hard to get their bodies in shape, by training, dieting, popping pills ... but I think people should also read more to exercise their minds, too." I couldn't agree more. Personally, I think a mind in good shape is just so much sexier.

Email the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com

TIPS FROM THE DENTIST

Healthy Teeth & Gums for Life

A healthy mouth is an important part of overall good health. Our teeth play a key role in our appearance and well-being. However, having healthy teeth and gums requires more than daily maintenance and regular dental check-ups. Discipline is a key ingredient in ensuring great dental health.

Whatever your age, you can and should have a healthy mouth and a pleasant smile. Correct dental care can help you keep your teeth for a lifetime. If you take care of your teeth, they'll help take care of you.

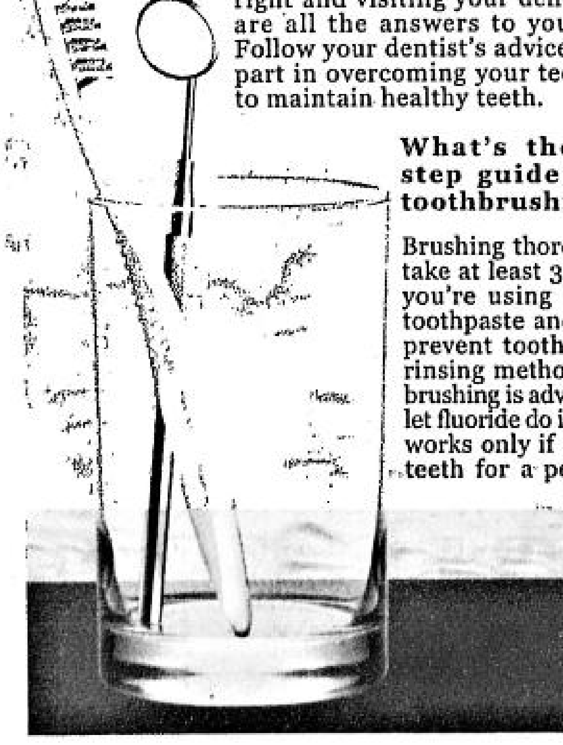
To know more on how to have healthy teeth and gums for life, here's what Dr. Fina Lopez, Consultant Staff of the Pediatric Dentistry Center and Oral Health Care Center, has to say on proper dental care.

CARE FOR THE TEETH

How do you maintain the health of your teeth?

Regular toothbrushing remains to be THE cornerstone of oral hygiene practice at home. Toothbrushing effectively removes plaque (a sticky mixture of food and bacteria in our mouth), thus preventing tooth decay. This should ideally be done after every meal, especially right before going to sleep.

Maintaining good oral hygiene, eating right and visiting your dentist regularly are all the answers to your problems. Follow your dentist's advice and do your part in overcoming your teeth problems to maintain healthy teeth.



What's the step-by-step guide in proper toothbrushing?

Brushing thoroughly should take at least 3-4 minutes. If you're using a fluoridated toothpaste and you want to prevent tooth decay, a no-rinsing method after toothbrushing is advised. This is to let fluoride do its job. Fluoride works only if it's left on the teeth for a period of time.

To be sure you're doing it right, follow these steps:

- Using a pea-size amount of toothpaste (for 6 years old and older) or a smear of toothpaste (for younger children), place the bristles of your toothbrush on the gumline at a 45 degree angle.
- Brush over the teeth and gums gently, in a circular/elliptical motion.
- Do this on both the outside and inside surfaces of the teeth. Thoroughly brush the top or biting surfaces of the back teeth and your tongue.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

What should I look for in a toothbrush?

A soft nylon bristle toothbrush is the best kind of toothbrush to use. It should have a round head small enough to fit into all areas of your mouth and a wide handle with a firm grip. It should be replaced every 3 months.

Any special tool or procedures that may be recommended to supplement tooth brushing?

Flossing is also important for oral health and is considered an essential daily tool. A lot of people find flossing to be difficult and time-consuming but it also removes plaque between the teeth and along the gumline, preventing cavities and periodontal disease.

For proper flossing technique:

- Circle 18 inches of floss around your middle fingers, leaving 1-2 inches of taut floss in between.
- Use your index fingers to guide the floss for your lower teeth and your thumbs for your upper teeth.
- Gently guide the floss down between your teeth using a zigzag motion. Contour the floss along the side of your tooth.
- Gently slide the floss up and down against the side of the tooth surface and under the gumline.
- Floss each contact of your tooth thoroughly with a clean section of the floss.

Do dentists recommend battery/electric toothbrushes?

Yes. The motion of the rotating brush heads that battery/electric toothbrushes offer greatly reduces plaque, which makes the oral cavity cleaner, thereby greatly reducing the formation of tooth decay and gum disease. This is especially effective for people with poor dexterity–children, older people and people with special needs. Most children are even more motivated to brush their teeth when using these power toothbrushes because it's fun to use.

VISIT YOUR DENTIST

How often should one go to the dentist for check-ups or cleanings?

Ideally, you should visit your dentist every 6 months for a check up and cleaning. But for patients who have gum disease, those who are prone to tooth decay and those with poor oral hygiene, we advise that you visit your dentist more often.

DO'S AND DON'TS IN PROPER DENTAL CARE

a. DON'T go to sleep without brushing your teeth. When we're asleep, saliva slows down its production, thus diminishing its flushing action greatly.

b. DO visit your dentist at least every 6 months.

c. DON'T snack frequently.

d. DO select a toothbrush appropriate for you.

Dr. Fina obtained her Doctor of Dental Medicine degree from the University of the Philippines and earned her Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry from the Pediatric Dentistry Center in 2000. She is a practicing pediatric dentist and holds her clinic at the Pediatric Dentistry Center, 5/F Medical Arts Building, Dr. Fe del Mundo Medical Center 11 Banawe St., Quezon City, Tel. No. 740-7728; and at the Oral Health Care Center, G/F LPL Greenhills, 17 Eisenhower St., Greenhills, San Juan, Tel. No. 722-0010. She is an active member of the Philippine Pediatric Dental Society, Inc., and is the editor-in-chief of Kiddie Smiles magazine – the only dental magazine for children.

Dental Equity Study shows 81% of Filipino dentists use Oral-B

In a Dental Equity Study among Filipino dentists conducted by AC Nielsen, a global leader in market research and information, Oral-B was the top brand of toothbrush that most dentists used and recommended. The study showed that 81% of dentists personally use Oral-B. Bristle quality was the primary consideration among dentists in choosing a particular brand next to cleaning efficiency, comfort and safety. Oral-B also leads among the brands of power toothbrush (both battery and electric) that dentists recommend to their patients.

Oral-B The Brand More Dentists Use Themselves

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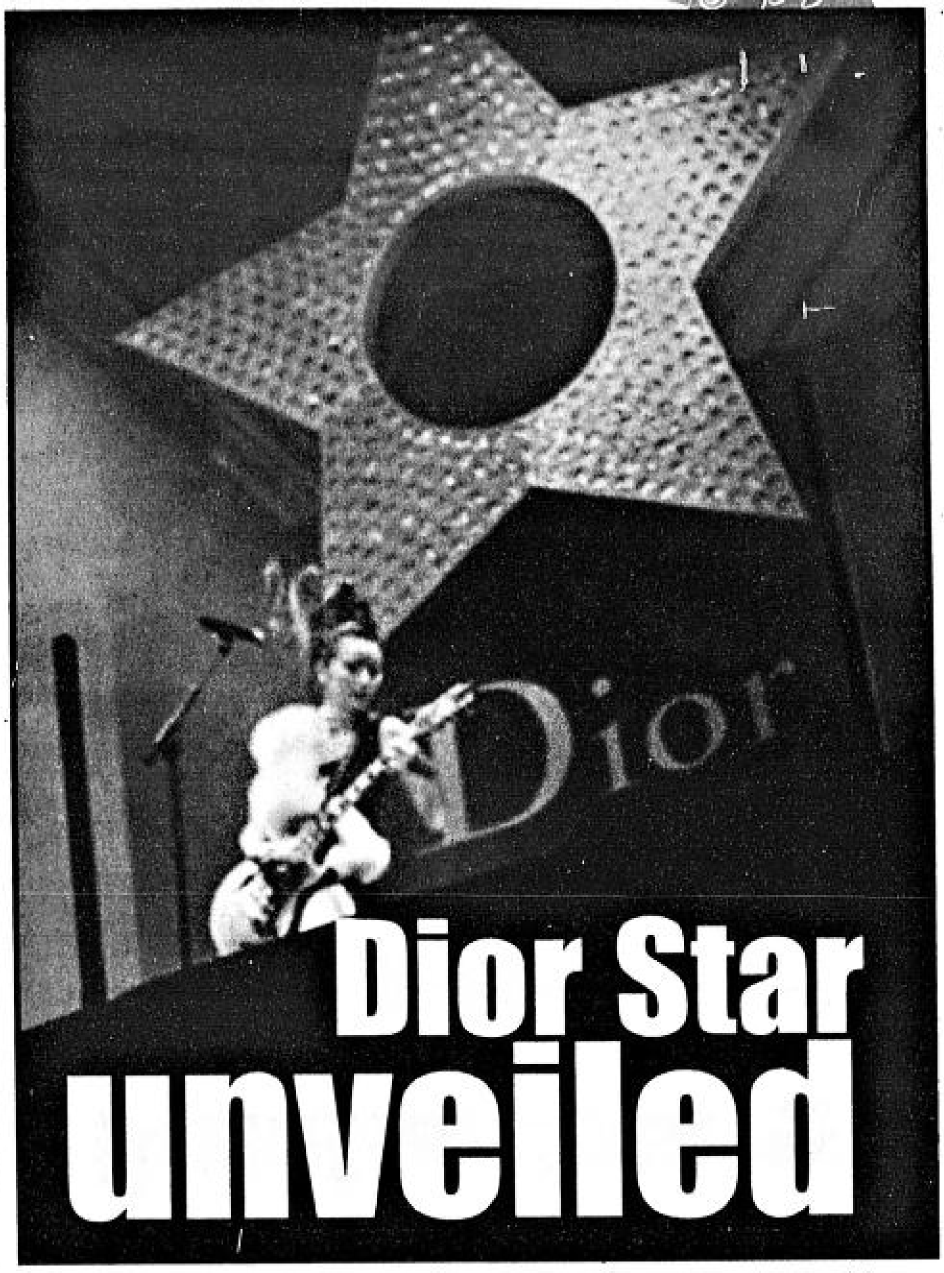
F4's Vic Zhuo with sisters Barbie and Dee Hsu

DIOR's fashion show spares nothing

DIOR Superfluity!



Dior Star unveiled

"GLAMOUR, fashion, and luxury" sums up the recent opening of Christian Dior's flagship boutique at The Landmark, the shopping center in Hong Kong's Central District.

The two-story boutique, all of 5050-square meters big, offers the widest selection of the brand's ready-to-wear clothes, leather goods, watch and jewelry.

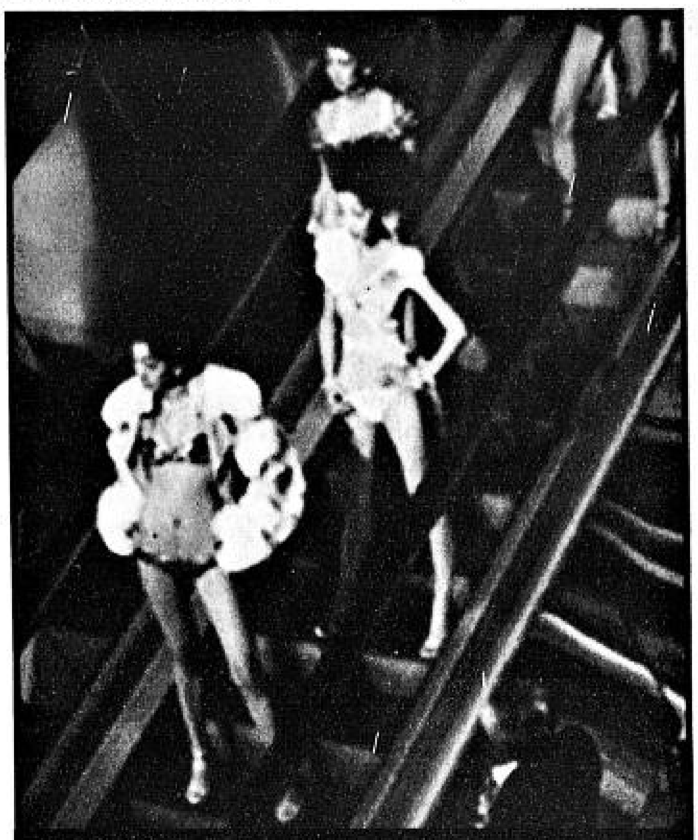
The bash created a stir in Hong Kong as Asian celebrities—the Taiwanese F4 member Vic Zhou, sister act Barbie and Dee Hsu, South Korean pop singer Park Ji-Yoon, and Hong Kong rock star Denise Ho—graced the event and gave spectacular performances.

Stars were everywhere from the ramp to the fountain area, milling about until the start of the fashion show that formally unveiled Dior Star.

Speaking before Philippine media representatives, Dominique Taieb, commercial director of LVMH Watch & Jewellery Inc., said it was the seventh in a series of boutique openings in Hong Kong, which illustrates their growing confidence in the region.

Christian Dior is bringing to the HK store a whole range of Dior watches that combine modernity, creativity and the expertise of fine Swiss watchmaking. John Galliano and his brand studio team supervised the creation of all the watches.

Tim Yap



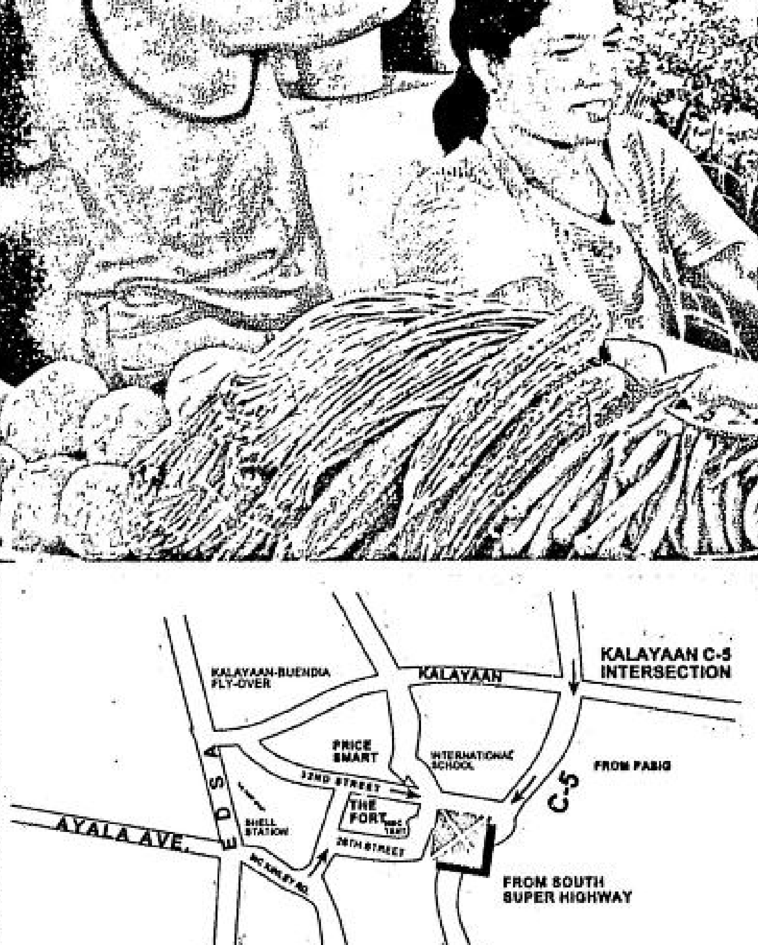
ESCALATOR drama

PINOY Idol: Rissa Samson

MORE and more! A model getting made up backstage

THE DASHING servers of Moet Chaudon

Ang Market na Mall, Ang Mall na Market. Now Open!


KALAYAAN-BUENDIA FLY-OVER
KALAYAAN
KALAYAAN C-5 INTERSECTION
PRICE SMART
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
FROM PASIG
32ND STREET
EDSA
SHELL STATION
THE FORT
C-5
AYALA AVE.
26TH STREET
MC KINLEY RD.
FROM SOUTH SUPER HIGHWAY

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HALO-HALO! BACK TO BACK ENTERTAINMENT FINDS.

SEPT 16 THURSDAY 6:30 PM	SEPT 17 FRIDAY 3:00 PM	SEPT 18 SATURDAY 4:30 PM	SEPT 19 SUNDAY 5:00 PM
Fireworks Display	Barbie's Cradle and Jimmy Bondoc	Regine Velasquez and Akafellas	Piolo Pascual and Jay-R

CANYON WOODS AT 7

Living a dream

CANYON WOODS
RESIDENTIAL RESORT

By Marlet D. Salazar

TRANQUIL. Pleasant. Soothing.

These are just few of the words that can best describe Canyon Woods, one of the most prestigious residential resorts in the country.

It may have been initially envisioned to be a simple subdivision but Canyon Woods Resort Club has grown into a 220-hectare community and is continuously expanding as more and more people discover this paradise which has become the site of choice for a weekend home.

In the mid-1990s, George S. Go, president and chief executive officer of Canyon Woods Resort Club and other partners developed the sprawling real estate located at the scenic Tagaytay ridge in Barangay San Gregorio, Gen. Diokno Highway, Laurel, Batangas. It is owned and managed by Tagaytay Grasslands Corp. Inc., developer of upscale property projects which took over the property three years ago.

Canyon Woods is built with the aim of giving city dwellers an alternative home. Only one and a half hour away from Metro Manila, the residential resort also boasts of first-class amenities which includes a one-hectare, five-storey clubhouse.

Go saw that the rolling terrain and mountainous area to be more of an advantage in developing the property. The 300 and more homes built in seven years are more than a testament to the materialization of his vision.

From a 38-hectare mountain community, it is now in the process of building Phase 4 and adding more state-of-the-art facilities for homeowners and club members to enjoy. Canyon Woods is situated about 500 meters above sea level, which has the perfect climate and the most picturesque view of the famous Taal Lake and the Batangas Valley.

The spacing of lots and houses are carefully planned so that each unit would be able to maximize its view potentials. The blocks have been configured to reduce the need for cut and fill and make the most of the terrain's natural slopes. The entire property faces the east and is nestled between the Tagaytay mountain ridge, Taal Lake, Batangas Valley, and the South China Sea.

The exclusive residential resort is also designed to have everything a family needs and it boasts of its many sports facilities. The most popular, however, is its golf course.

The development of Canyon Woods is also based on an environment-friendly design. Where else can you see an old tree in the middle of the road?

"We have planted at least 10,000 trees since its development," Go said.

This high-end property development is now looking at the Filipino-American market as it recently acquired a 5-star quality recognition from Interval International.

Interval International is a quality exchange network which lists Marriott Vacation Club International and other resorts all over the world.

The gradual development of the property was part of the master plan according to Go.

"The expansion should be based on the demand," he said.

The last three years saw the fast-paced development of the property. More houses are being built and the addition of the facilities is all in the works.

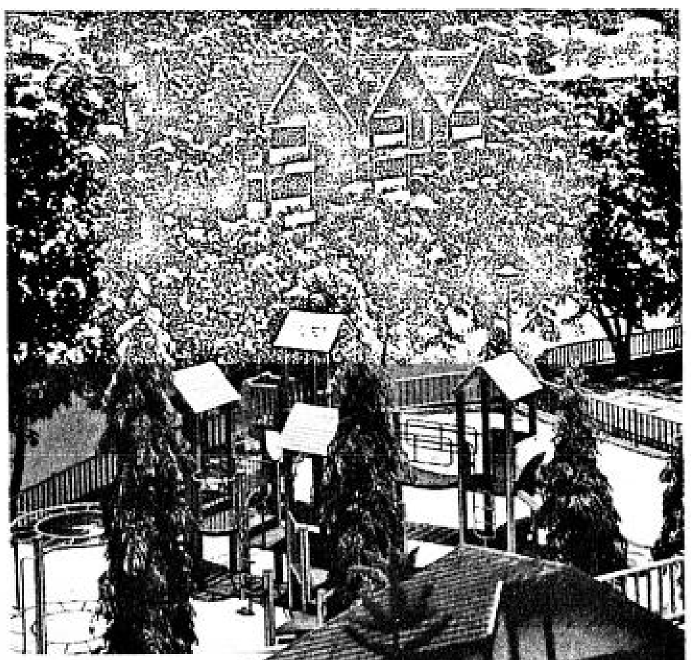
Go also noted the impressive performance of Canyon Woods in the last three years for an industry that is slowly picking up after a crisis that affected the real estate sector.

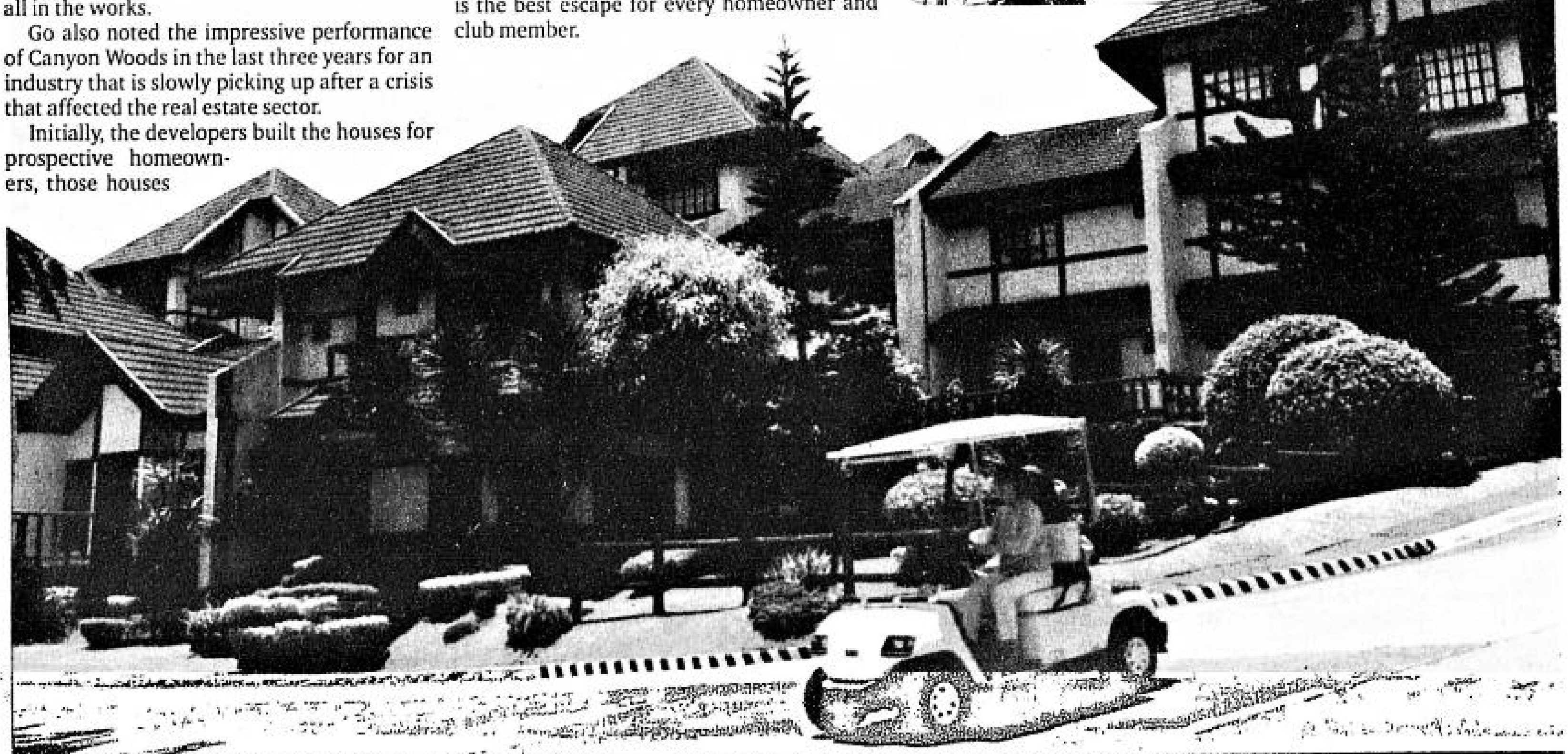
Initially, the developers built the houses for prospective homeowners, those houses are located in Phase 1. The progressive expansion eventually allowed lot buyers or owners to build and design their own homes granting that they follow certain limitations to protect the American-inspired theme as well as the environment. Last July, Canyon Woods opened its office in San Francisco, California.

The soft-spoken Go also commends the whole team of Canyon Woods for its focused performance in the last few years. Add to the growing popularity of the residential resort is the very warm customer service and the residential resort's active homeowners' association.

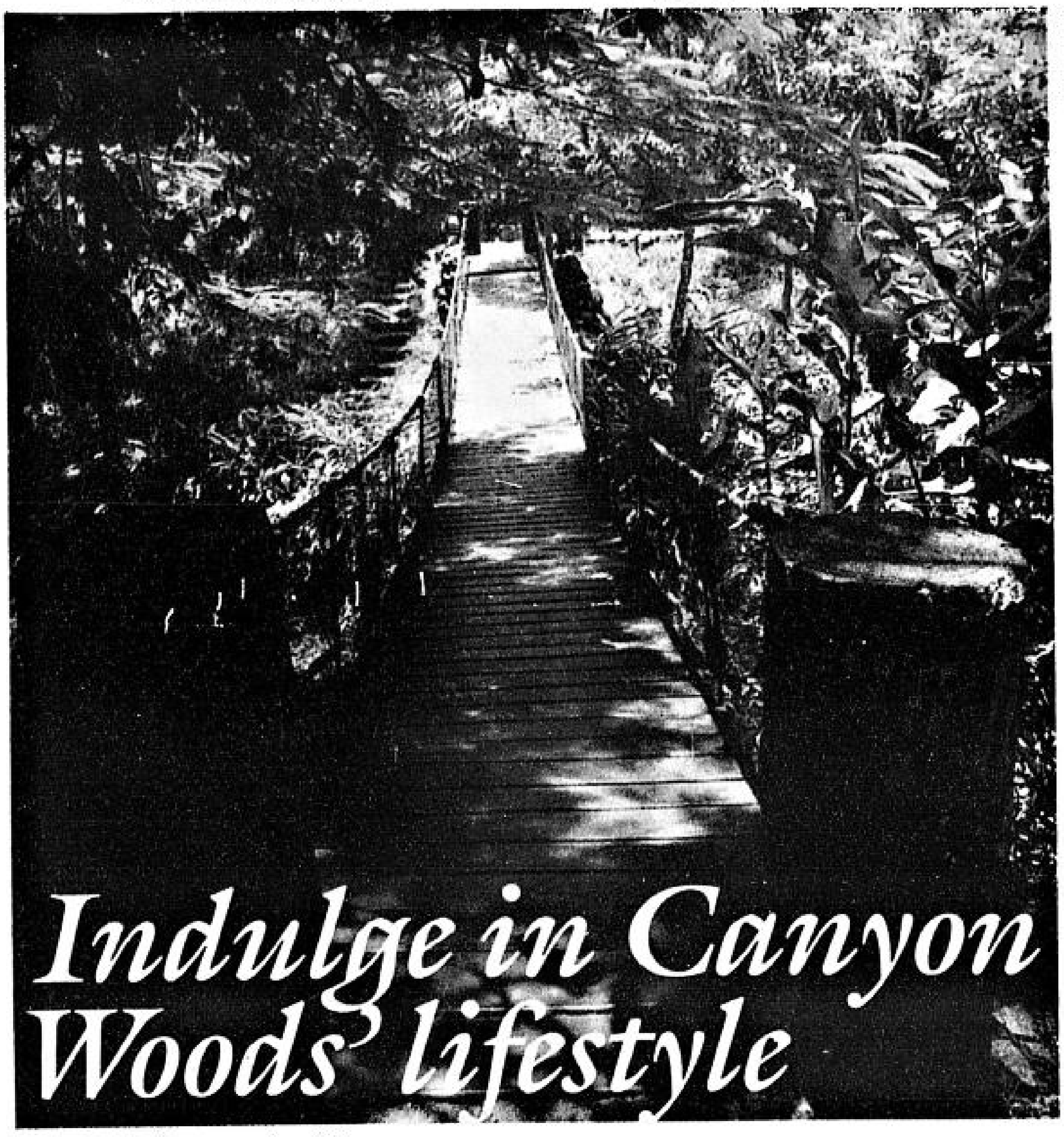
"We appreciate the support of the homeowners and members," Go said, "We promise to work harder to give them the best service."

More than the magnificent view, the first-class facilities, and the total management support, Canyon Woods is a community that promotes healthy living and uplifts the spirit of people who have had enough of the city life. Weekends and holidays at Canyon Woods is the best escape for every homeowner and club member.





CANYON WOODS



Indulge in Canyon Woods' lifestyle

By Joel V. Nigos

CANYON Woods strategic location provides a breathtaking view of the mountains and ridges in the scenic Taal-Tagaytay ridge such as Taal Lake, Taal Volcano, Balayan Bay and Batangas Valley. With its cool mountain air experienced nearly all-year round, it offers a rustic ambience ideal for families and for life's most important moments.

Now one can indulge in the Canyon Woods lifestyle with its various products and services-be it open lots and house and lot packages, club sales, retirement packages, Vacation Club, and Club B-shares.

Open lots and house lot packages

The residential resort currently has six phases-Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3-A, Phase 3-B, Georgetown, and Phase 4-A1. Open lots are sized between 250 and 1,000 sq.m. Land countours are also well preserved with blocks configured to reduce the need for cut and fill and make the most of the terrain's natural slopes and carvings. The entire property also faces the east offering pleasant morning sunshine for most dwellings.

House and lot packages come in sizes ranging from 80 to 160 sq. m. They are distributed in clusters so as to spur actual and immediate occupancy of the subdivision. They offer magnificent wood-and-rock country-style lodges with the convenience of a five-star resort club. Imported earthtone roofing and acricast textured paint walls with slate/stone combination are used in the homes. Its interior also lives up to its five-star status. The ground floor rooms have tiled floorings, imported gypsum board ceiling and like its exterior has acricast textured paint walls. It has concrete slab floor base with wood; parquet flooring in the second floor rooms, painted cement walls and imported gypsum board ceiling. All the bathrooms have tiled floorings and walls, with painted marine plywood ceiling.

Club sales for members

Companies or families who are on the lookout for conference or vacation packages can also see what Canyon Woods has to offer.

The premier residential resort is a perfect venue for meetings, seminars, conferences, trade exhibitions and company outings. Whether for a formal function or for teambuilding, the resort has the necessary facilities for these events. With its complete amenities, the place is also ideal for wedding ceremonies, kiddie birthday and day-tour packages.

Canyon Woods has six function rooms which are named after the towns of Batangas-the Tanauan and Talisay, the biggest which can accommodate up to 100 people, Lipa and Lemery which can host 40 people, Taal, the smallest which can hold up to 30, and the newly refurbished Laurel function room. Its Main Dining Hall can serve up to 400 people.

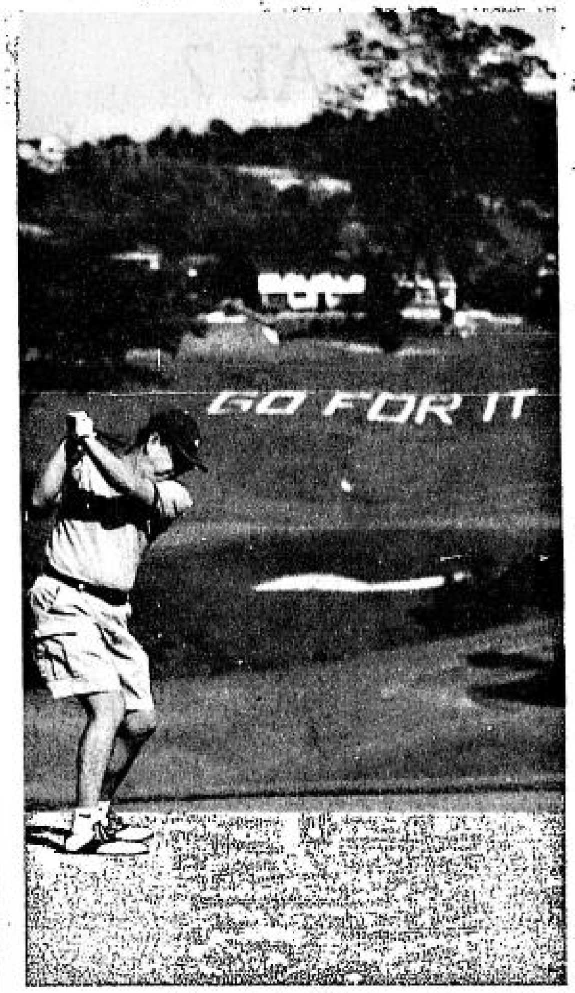
Included in the packages is the use of various amenities and the facilities only Canyon Woods can provide. These are the indoor playground, indoor heated pool with jacuzzi and bar, gym with Cybex machines and free weights, aerobics and dance studio, massage and wet and dry treatment facilities, jacuzzi, sauna and steam bath, scenic lake for fishing and boating, 18-hole crazy mini golf, covered basketball and volleyball courts, indoor badminton and squash courts, outdoor children's playground, tennis courts, tenpin bowling center, and 9-hole par 34 executive golf course. Use of these facilities depends on what package has been chosen.

Retirement packages

Canyon Woods also offers retirement packages intended for retirees who are still shopping around for their permanent retirement base.

With its "Look See, Trial Package," retirees can have a taste of the Canyon Woods lifestyle on a limited, time-based format. With a minimal cash outlay, the retiree can enjoy features and privileges which include a minimum of one month to a maximum of 12-month accommodation at a well-appointed first-class Canyon Woods Casitas studio, Cedar creek 2 bedrooms and Mañosa 3 bedrooms. This depends on the package chosen by the retiree.

The retiree will then have access to the world-class Canyon Woods Resort Club facilities and amenities which includes a 9-hole executive golf course, a Clubhouse with excellent food and beverage outlets, spa and fitness centers, sports, entertainment and conference/convention facilities. The offer is in cooperation with the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority (PLRA).



Vacation Club

One can also take part in Canyon Woods vacation club packages, a pioneering holiday ownership program at the Canyon Woods residential resort.

The vacation club package uses a time-share concept. The offer is even a deeded ownership for life, thus, it can be transferred, assigned or bequeathed to heirs. The vacation package allows for an annual seven-night accommodation based on a floating week/time system. This would allow owners the flexibility of scheduling their vacations with annual variations.

The Canyon Woods Vacation Club is affiliated with the world-recognized Interval International, a reputable high-end vacation exchange company. This affiliation will allow members of Canyon Woods Vacation Club the luxury of taking their vacations in more than 2,000 resorts worldwide. Since Canyon Woods is a five-star resort, members then can also have five-star accommodations when they exchanged their vacation club packages abroad.

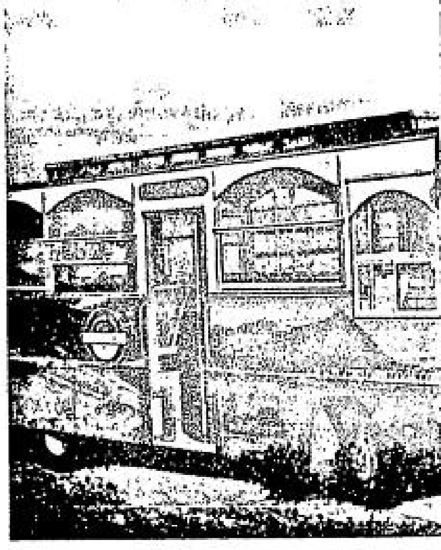
There will be three models available: the Platinum, 130 sq. m. with two-bedroom unit; the Gold, 80 sq. m. with one-bedroom de-luxe unit and the Silver with its ample 50 sq. m. with one-standard bedroom unit.

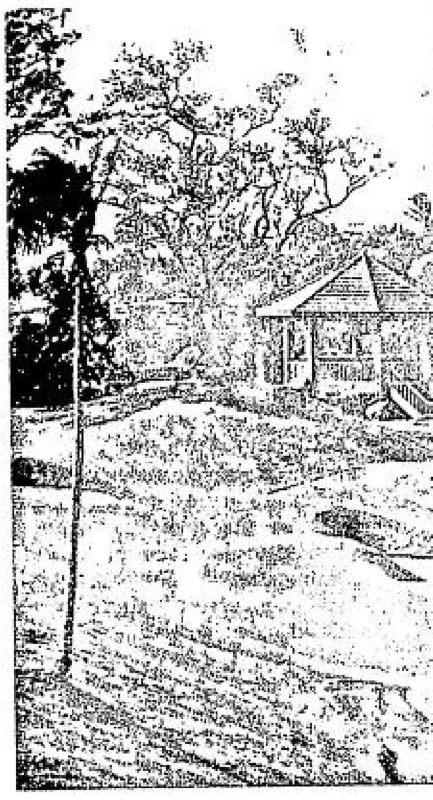
A distinct advantage of the Canyon Woods Vacation Club is the availability of fully-furnished lodging units in the purpose-built five-star resort complex that the vacation club members can already avail of today.

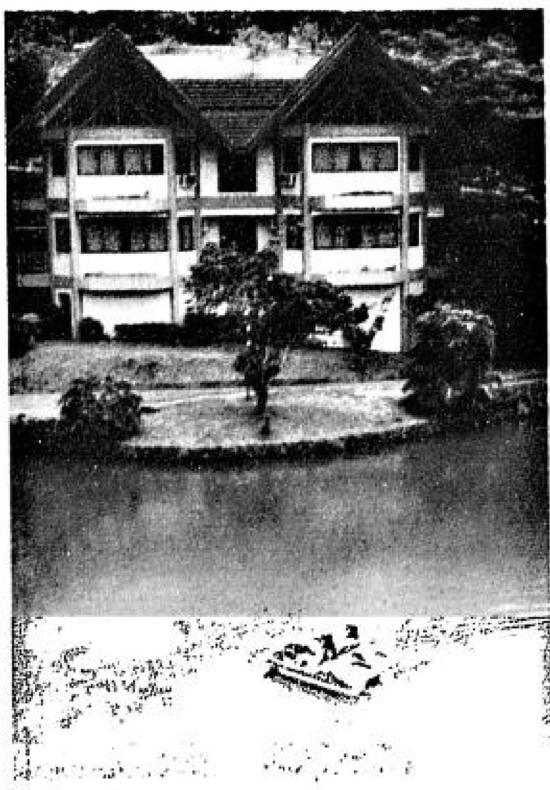
Club B-shares

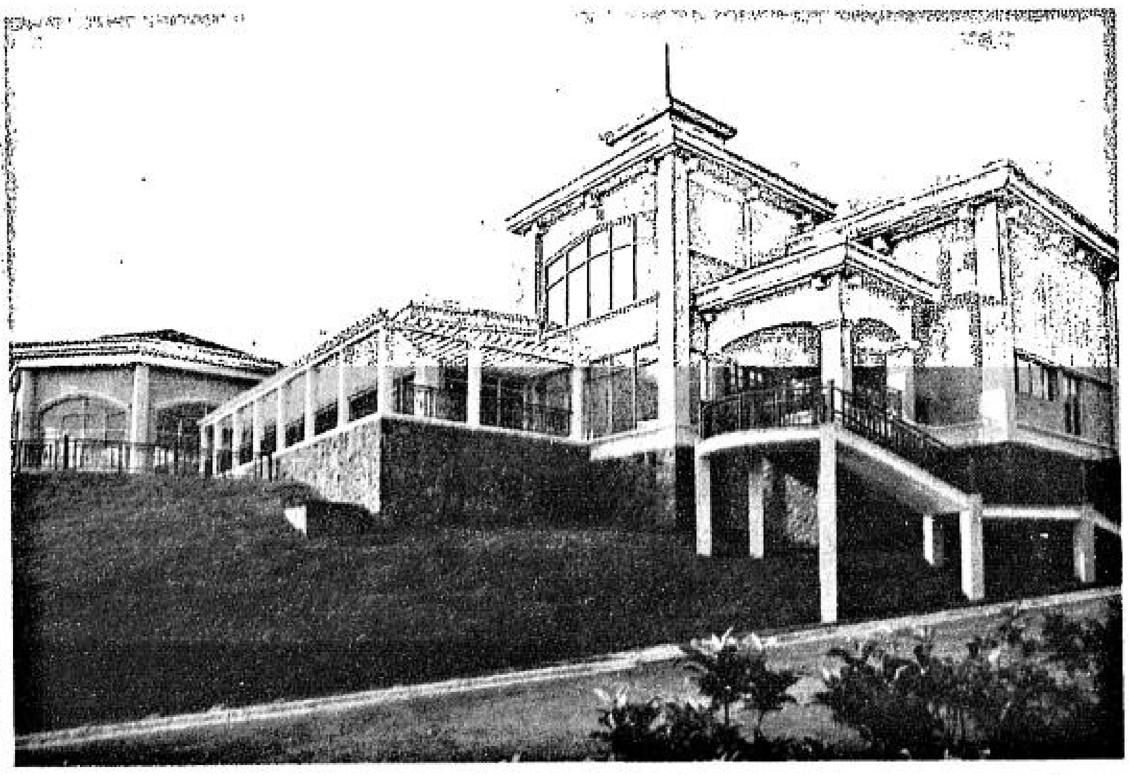
Canyon Woods also offers Club B-shares for public offering. Buyers also have the option to pay the Club B-shares either in one- up to four-year terms.

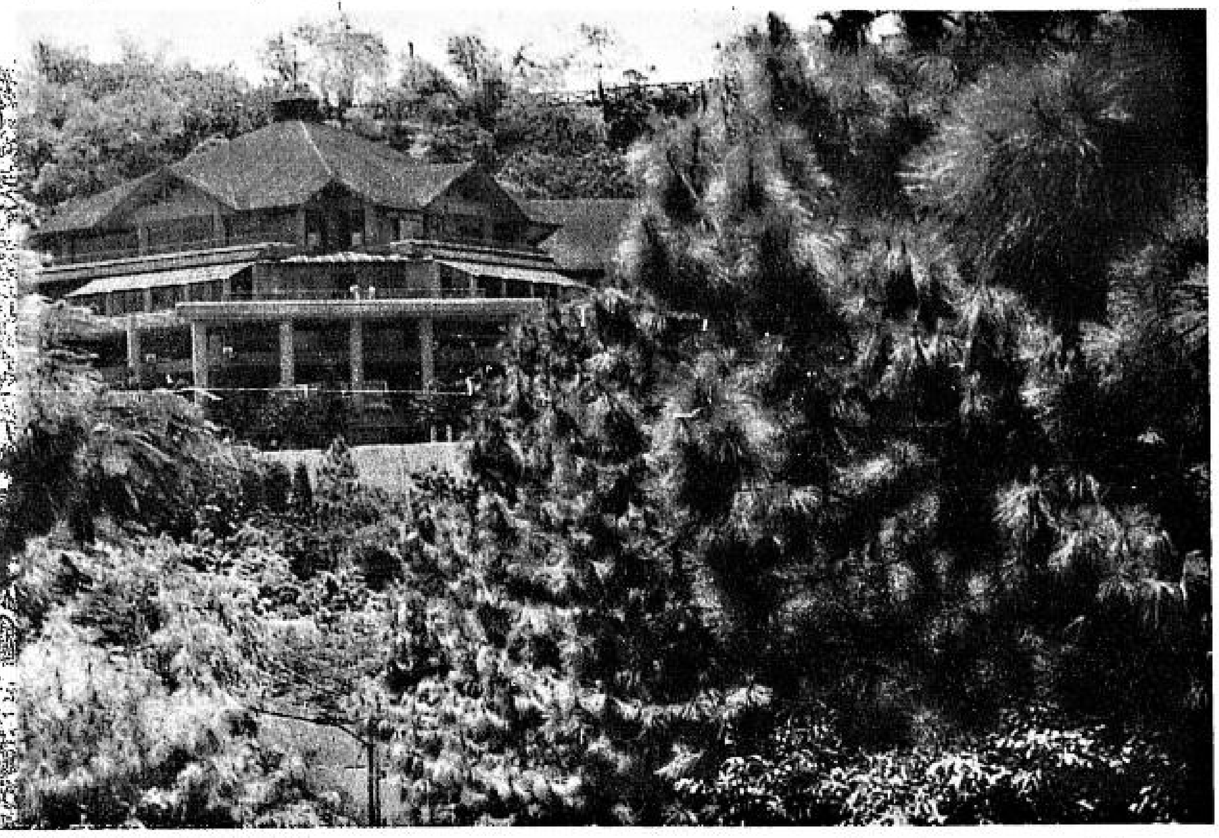
Upon issuance of the temporary card after receipt and clearing of first payment, the buyer can now have ownership of shares and can use the club facilities subject to the Club's existing guidelines.

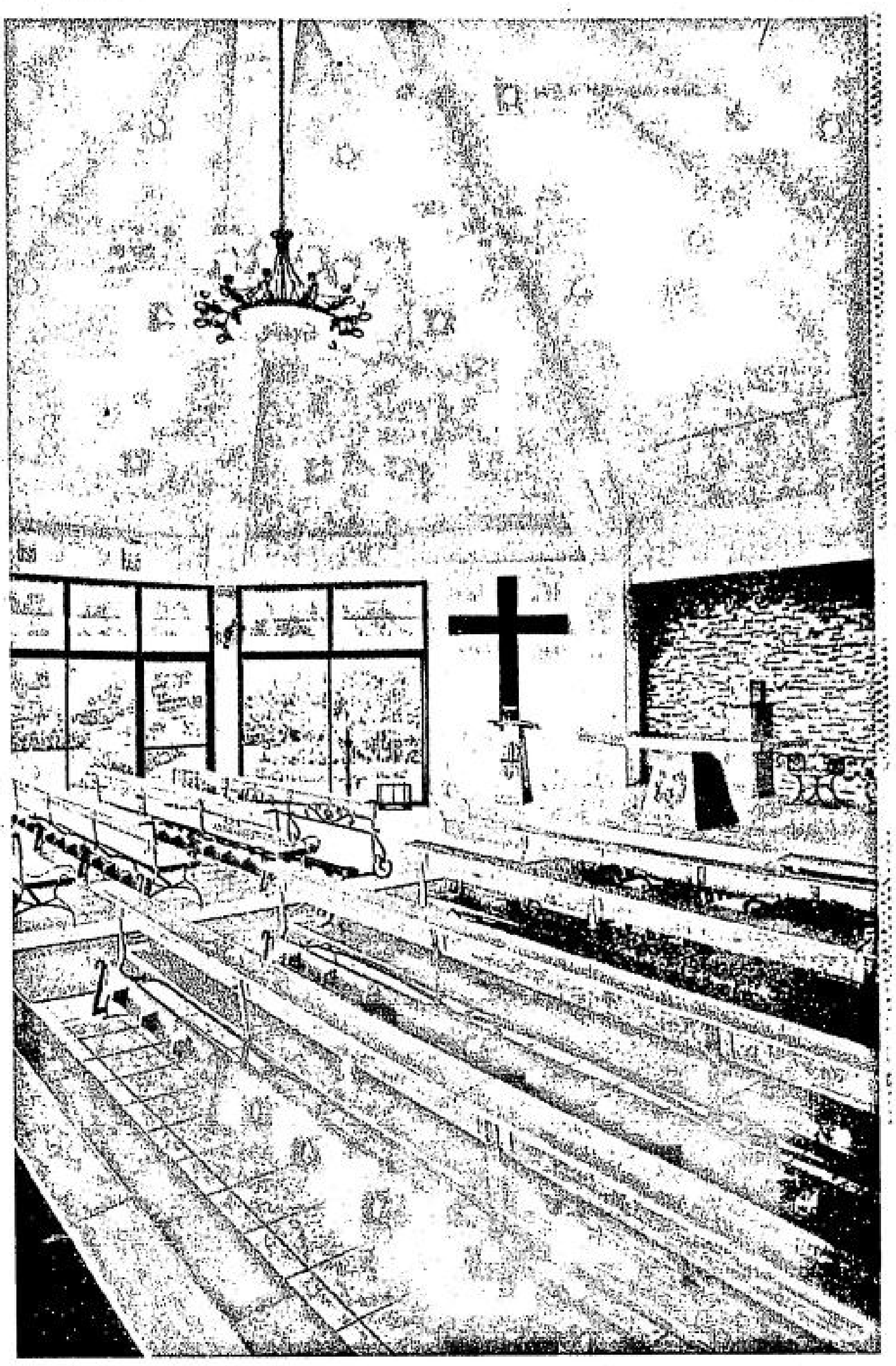












Nature and family are most important themes

By Joel V. Nigos

UNLIKE most residential resorts, which are often just residences and a clubhouse, Canyon Woods is envisioned to be a growing community where club members and homeowners and their guests are expected to stay. With a cozy atmosphere, nature and family as its most important concepts, the residential resort made sure it has all the amenities and facilities each member of the family can enjoy.

Canyon Woods boasts of complete sports facilities from a par 34, 9-hole golf course to an 18-hole mini-putting where both kids and adults can play. All at the pavilion side, the resort also has a 10-lane bowling center, indoor gym with basketball court, two badminton courts, a squash court, outdoor tennis courts, paddle boating and fishing facilities, an outdoor pool, and playground for kids.

At the Main Clubhouse, with all its five-story, 9,000 sq. m. area is where one can relax and recharge. This is where the residential resort's finest facilities can be found.

At the lobby level is the front office, the spacious lobby lounge, coffee shop, concierge and transportation service. Outside, at the view deck, homeowners and guest alike can have a panoramic view of Canyon Woods.

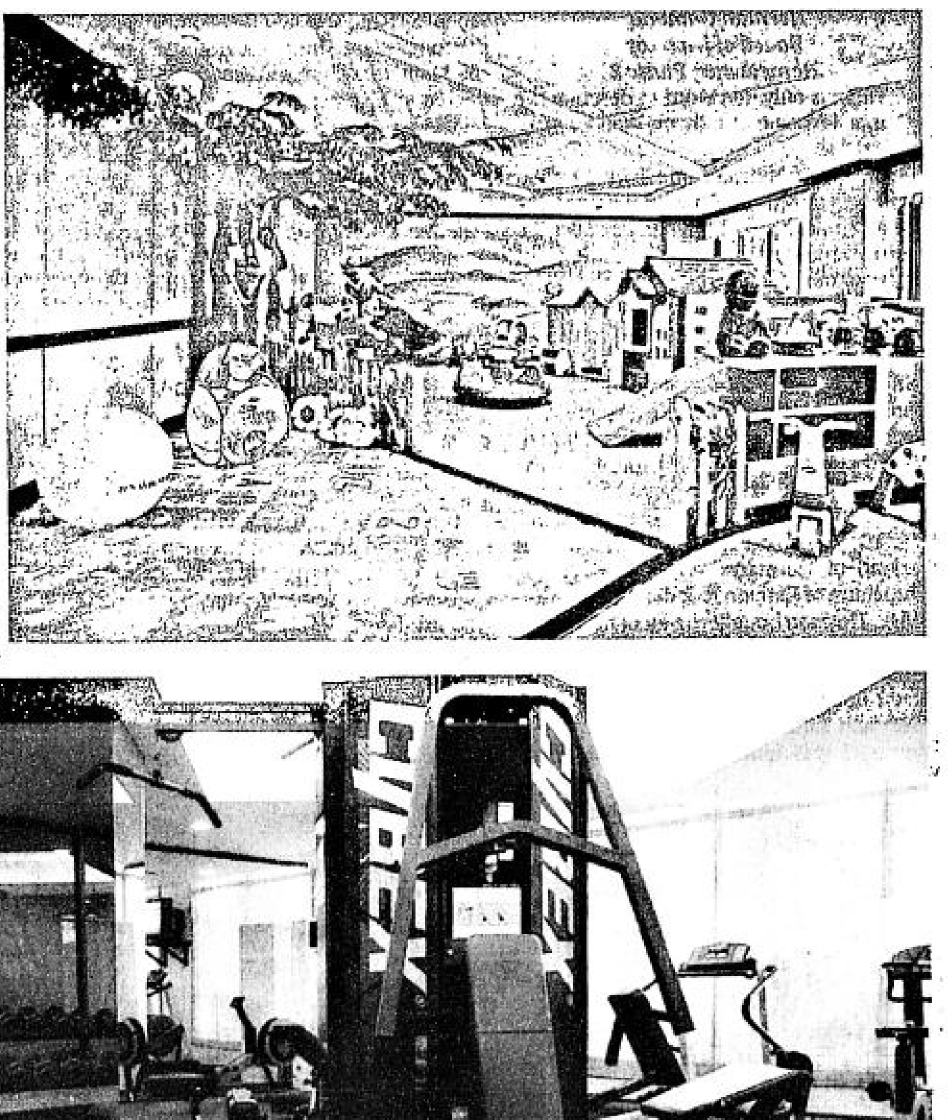
At the upper level is the main dining and reception hall where weddings and other functions can be held. A wide array of gastronomical feasts awaits homeowners and guests as Skyline features varied themes each week and in each pavilion. Adding a perfect ambience to life's most important events are the fireplace and bar.

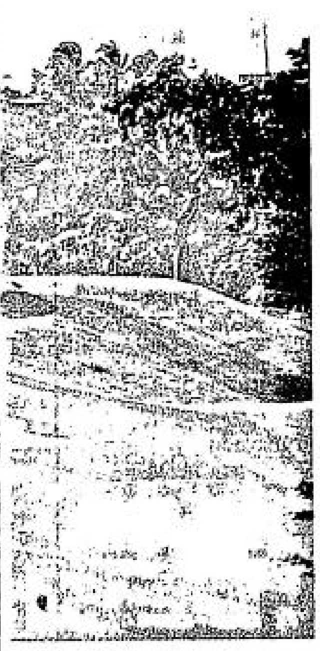
Lower level 1 houses the meeting and seminar rooms. Canyon Woods has six function rooms which are named after the towns of Batangas. They are the Tanauan, Talisay, Lipa, Lemery, Taal and Laurel. The mini-theater located also at this level can accommodate up to 50 people and has regular screenings from morning until evening during weekends. Homeowners and guests can sing their hearts out at the videoke room and bar. The library, which has a collection of storytelling books and fairy tales, is an ideal place for kids who want to expand their imagination. The marketing office, business center and the administration office can also be found at this level.

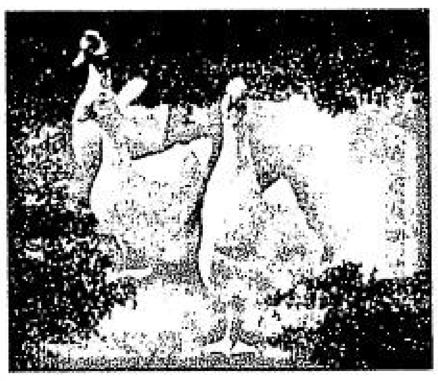
One can also take a dip at the indoor swimming pool at lower level 2. This is also where the jacuzzi and the bar are located. Flex your muscles at the gym with its Cybex machines and free weights. Or better yet do aerobics or learn the latest dance steps at the aerobics and dance studio. You can also relax your tired bodies at the massage rooms.

There is also a salon for men and women, separate men and ladies' locker rooms, shower rooms, sauna and steam bath, and a clinic.

Lower level 3 of the Clubhouse houses the Fun Center. Here, one can choose from a wide variety of sports activities such as billiards, table games and air hockey. Kids can also have fun playing computer games or at the toddler's indoor playground.







The beauty of having a second home

By Marlet D. Salazar

FOR THOSE who enjoy being in one with nature there is a residential resort on the Tagaytay ridge that you can call a second home. Instead of buildings, city dwellers can take pleasure from the lush trees and a magnificent vista of the Taal Lake.

Canyon Woods Residential Resort gives you an alternative living sans the traffic and pollution. Be at peace with nature and enjoy first-class amenities all in one community.

Homeowners, members, and even guests cannot help themselves but be awed by the effect Canyon Woods does to their spirits. Weekends are something a family looks forward to because it will be spent in a place that almost transports them to another world.

Three homeowners found a haven in Canyon Woods. Happy and contented, they shared their story and the wonders they experience in their second home.

Herman Gamboa,
Board of Director
Homeowner, Phase 2

There is only one word to describe the Gamboas' home at Canyon Woods: Awesome!

Guests of Herman and Lita Gamboa will be greeted not only by the warmest of all smiles the couple has but also the intricate and obviously well-thought of interior design of the house.

The closeness with nature doesn't stop in the small garden in which Lita, who is formerly connected with the Asian Development Bank, tends to every weekend; plants are visible in every possible corner of the four-storey Gamboa home. Their house is almost custom-built for their 13 grandkids from four children.

The peace and quiet of their weekend getaways wouldn't be possible if not for a friend of Herman who showed him a brochure of Canyon Woods. On his initial visit, Herman bought the lot of his choice right there and then. At that time, only Phase 1 was fully developed.

"I bought my lot based on drawing," Herman said. "The first time I saw the place, I was immediately reminded of Switzerland."

And he did not regret that decision as he has seen how Canyon Woods developed since April 2000, the time he moved to the family's second home.

"I fell in love with the place even though I haven't seen the exact spot of the lot I wanted to buy," Herman added. "And I didn't want to take the chance of losing my choice location."

He bought two lots which measures 340 square meters each. And as the residential resort expands, the Gamboa family added four more lots to their property in that part of Laurel, Batangas.

Herman is one of the founders of IT school STI and several other companies in the computer business. He graduated from the Mapua Institute of Technology with a degree in Electrical Engineering, and got his Masters from the University of the East and CRC (University of Asia and the Pacific). Herman is active with the Rotary International as a past district governor and training leader of incoming governors worldwide.

Herman is specially happy with the facilities and amenities the Canyon Woods Resort Club offers. Like most of the other residents, he enjoys golf. And the proposed 18-hole course that will soon grace its landscape is but a welcome addition to the many amenities everyone enjoys.

Along with the view, facilities, accessibility, what Herman look forward to every weekend are the friends he made in the community.

"We are very fortunate that the people who live here are very friendly," said Herman.

He said of his golfing buddies: "We gravitated with each other because we are all passionate about golf." In all of the weekends he spent there which is practically every week, he plays with the other resident golf aficionados.

"I never missed a weekend here," said Herman. "I look forward to spending time with my wife."

Ben de Vera
Board of Director
Homeowner, Phase 2

Having worked in a bank for 26 years, Ben de Vera surely deserves a second home full of comfort and convenience. Together with his wife, he found a place that gives them the calm a life in the city could barely give.

A proud homeowner at Canyon Woods, Ben and wife Carmen's house is practically the very first to rise in Phase 2. And like the others, after checking out several subdivisions and property within the vicinity, Canyon Woods became their top choice.

They saw it in the papers, looked around and they now own three lots. The De Veras found the residential resort to be more affordable considering the high quality facilities it offers.

"I simply love the place," Ben said.

Together with their pet dog Bernie, Ben and Carmen spend all weekends of the year at Canyon Woods. Carmen also keeps a small garden in the backyard which also serves as a playground for Bernie, a cuddly Labrador who keeps them company.

The house is more of a reward for the couple. They have four children and all of them graduated in college. Ben has an MBA from New York University and retired at a young age of 51 from Commercial Bank and Trust Company as senior vice president while Carmen has a Masters from the Catholic University of America.

"The place is very convenient for us," Ben said.

The De Veras cherish the panoramic view of the Taal Lake which gives a very warm and relaxing feeling. Ben also believes that it is the No. 1 selling point of Canyon Woods together with the sports facilities and other amenities available in the clubhouse.

Their house gives out a very homey feeling that you wouldn't want to leave. He also notices at how for a mountainous area the water facility is never a problem. In all of his six years there he still marvels at how big the area is and the development that is taking place.

But more importantly, Ben feels that it is still the warmth of the community that keeps them to going back every weekend.

"It's the people," Ben said. "They are very friendly, not just the homeowners but the staff in the club as well."

They get the chance to mingle with the other homeowners and members during the social activities for the whole year. It gives them the opportunity to get to know their neighbors who eventually become their friends.

According to De Vera, whatever you have in Manila you have it in Canyon Woods which is a much quieter place.

Ben relates what wife Carmen said of the place: "She said people will just have to take a look and you will not have to say anything more."

Tony Villa-Real
Board of Director
Homeowner, Phase 2

For the family of Tony Villa-Real, Canyon Woods has become their permanent home.

Blame it on the wonders of the hand of Mother Nature and the wonderful climate of Tagaytay and Batangas. The family with their black Labrador, Shadow, spend most of their time in their 6-year-old home at Canyon Woods.

The environment at Canyon Woods allows homeowners and members to have peace of mind and enjoy the cool weather that contributes to good health. The mood at the residential resort commands a complete change in lifestyle--from brisk, to calm and relaxing.

As an active director of Canyon Woods, he can incorporate work with relaxation. His involvement in Canyon Woods makes work productive and enjoyable. He enjoys playing golf with his dad and son, a dream he has always had. He relates how three generations of Villa-Reals play in the tough, challenging and mountainous golf course.

"It's funny when you begin to realize that life should be simple for you to be happy," said Tony who has made Canyon Woods his primary residence. The Villa-Reals' home has a fantastic and panoramic view. The veranda overlooks the golf course, the ducks swimming in the lagoon, and the forested ravine that is awesome!

Tony believes that Canyon Woods is the best location to build a second or even primary home because of its proximity to Metro-Manila. "For those who have been here a few times, they are surprised to see the active community life. The homeowners and members continuously participate in the activities of the club and resort. Canyon Woods is not just a better place to build a house, it has given its homeowners the opportunity to build a community concerned with each other's welfare, explains Tony".

Tony continues to relate, "We all take advantage of the excellent food and service that the club provides. The resort's staff is always ready to make everyone's stay at Canyon Woods enjoyable and relaxing. It has evolved to be a truly cozy residential resort."

CARMEN and Ben de Vera

ROSEMARIE and Tony Villa-Real with Shadow

HERMAN and Lita Gamboa

Schedule of Activities

September 18, 2004, Saturday

6:30 a.m. Golf Tournament
11 a.m. Open House
at Georgetown Clubhouse
2 p.m. "All-out Blowout Jungle Party"
Ranger Cany's 2nd Birthday
Basketball Gymnasium
5:30 p.m. Liturgical Service at the
Chapel of the Most Holy Name
of the Child Jesus

7 p.m. 7th Anniversary
Gala Dinner
Main Dining Hall

Attire: Retro Outfit
Guest performers:
Bimbo Cerrudo
and the Spirit of '67 Band

CANYON WOODS
RESIDENTIAL
RESORT

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